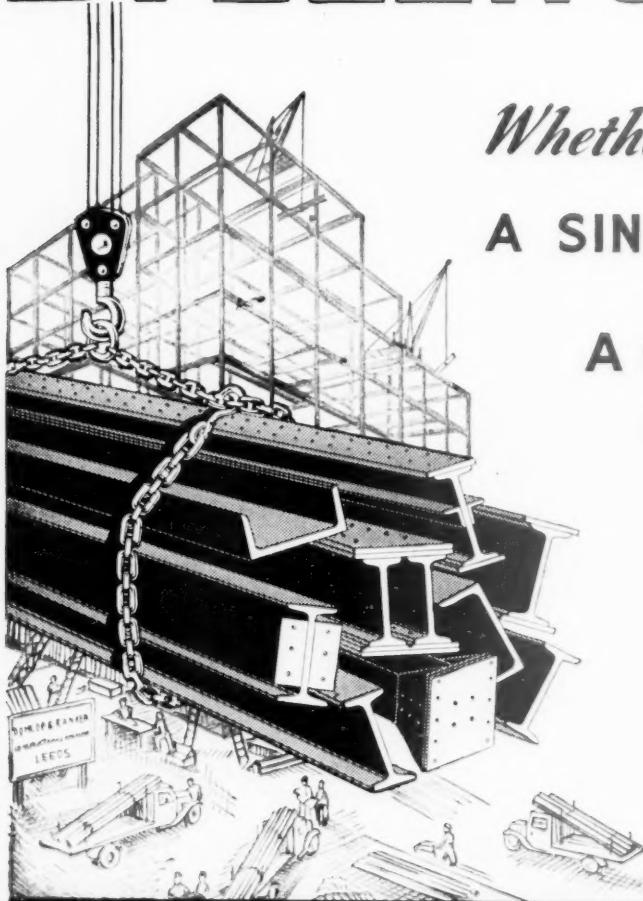


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IN THIS ISSUE

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- CONVERSION OF TWO EAST HOUSES

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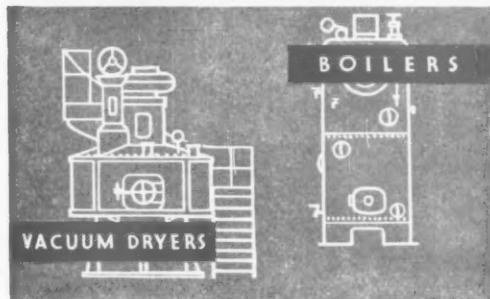
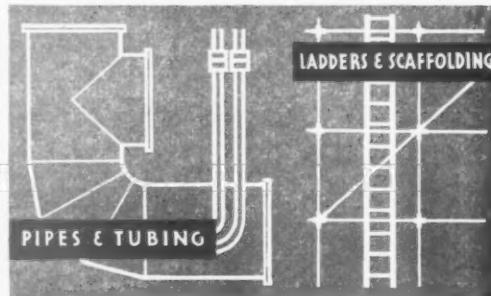
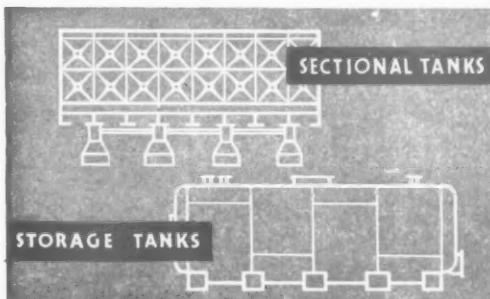
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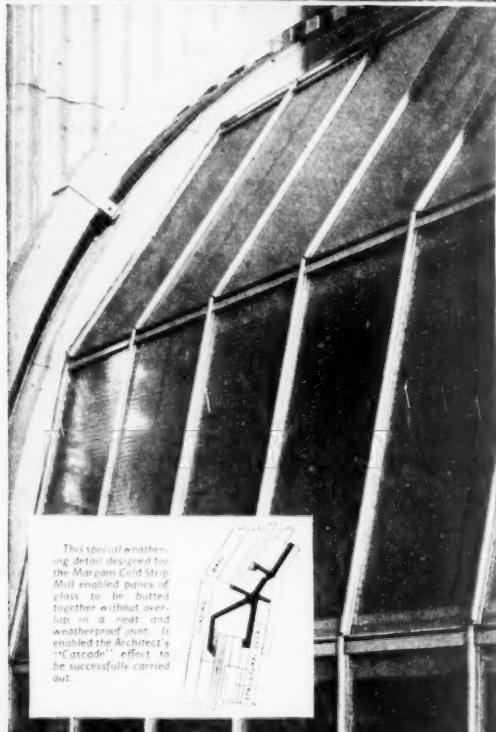
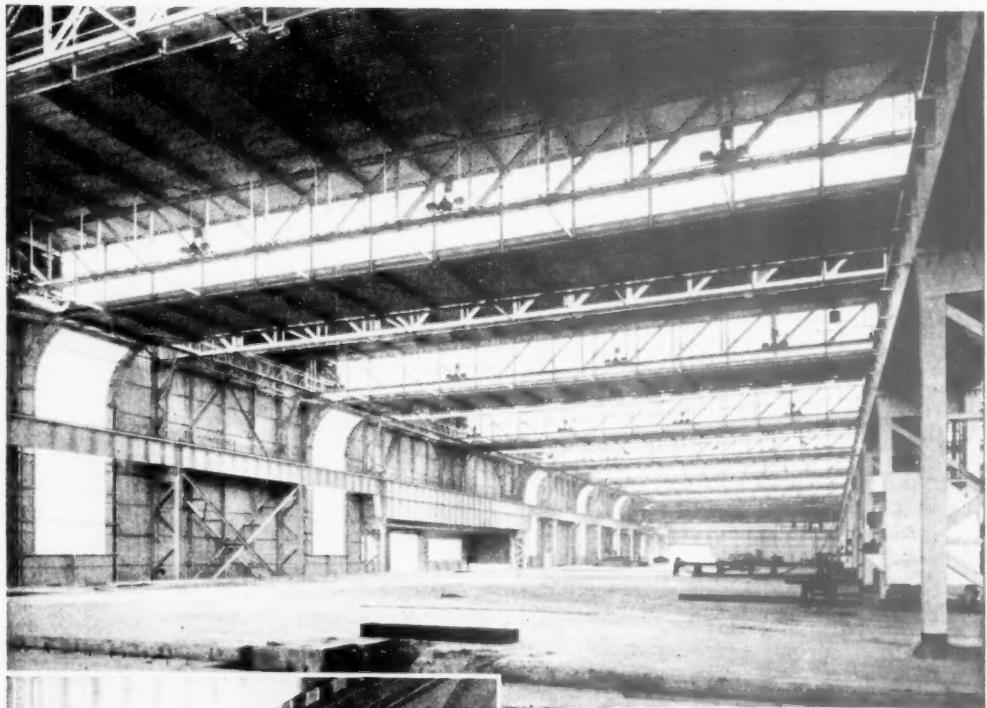
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WILLIAMS AND WILLIAMS at MARGAM

Further examples of the versatility of Aluminex Patent Glazing

The Abbey Works of the Steel Company of Wales, is the largest rolling mill in Europe and is one of the most outstanding engineering plants designed since the war. Working in conjunction with the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. W. S. Atkins & Partners, and the Architects, Sir Percy Thomas & Sons, Williams and Williams were able to produce glazing of a unique and impressive character, examples of which are shown in these pages. The cascade sidewall lights are of particular interest, being expressly designed to meet the exacting lighting requirements.

CASCADE GLAZING When it had been decided that Aluminex Patent Glazing provided all the features required for the sidewall glazing of the Steel Mills at Margam, certain technical difficulties were discovered. In order to produce even daylighting throughout the building it was necessary that the panels of sidewall glazing should curve inwards at the head. It was inadmissible to break the line of the curve by allowing the panes to overlap in a "lobster-back" fashion and curved glass was out of the question because of cost and difficulty of replacement. The effect had to be achieved by using flat panes of glass set out in a series of chords, and this arrangement presented special weathering problems, as also did the very flat pitch near the top of the cascade.

To overcome these the Aluminex engineers designed a new weathering detail which is shown in the drawing and in the photograph at the bottom of the opposite page, and is a development of the standard Aluminex "Z" weathering extrusion which is one of the special features of the Aluminex Glazing system. The remarkable effect achieved resembled cascades of glass and is vividly illustrated in the photographs. The cascades are each fourteen feet wide and range from fifteen feet to fifty-five feet high. The fifty-five foot cascades are composed of seven vertical tiers with a further curved portion of three tiers on a 9' 9" radius. The cascades were glazed in some instances with specially toughened glass in order to resist the thermal shock caused by hot ingots passing within a few feet of them.

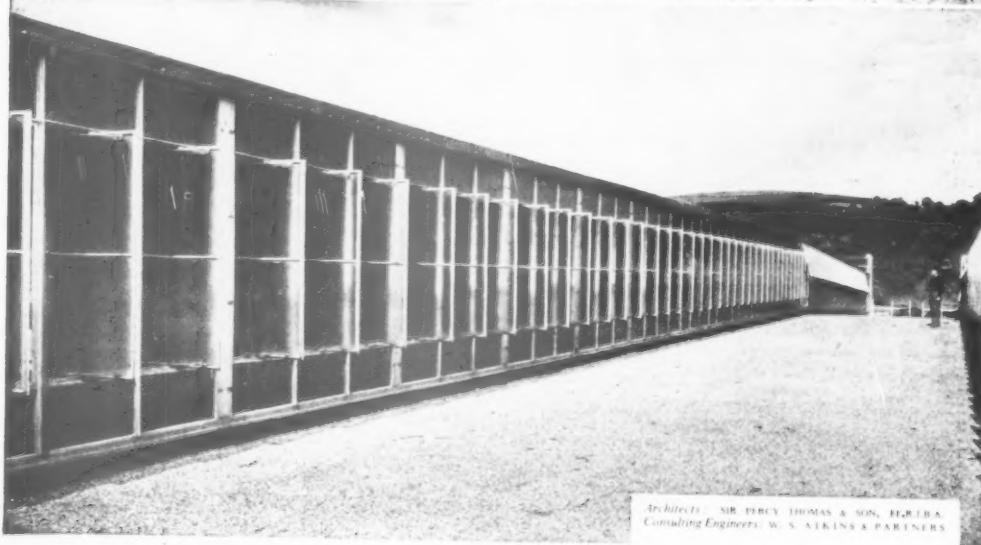
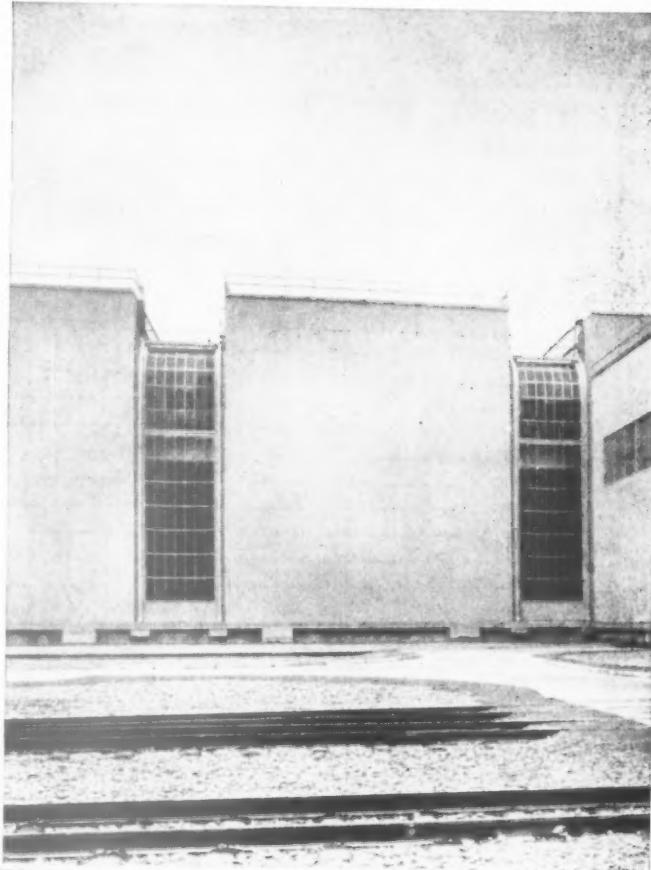
HIGH LOW ROOF CONSTRUCTION To provide controlled ventilation

together with even distribution of light, the monitors in the Cold Mill Building are glazed partly with continuous top-hung Aluminex opening lights and partly with aluminium vertical pivot-hung windows made by the Reliance Division of Williams and Williams. Both are operated by Teleflex Gear with hand-operators placed so that they can be manipulated from walkways on the crane gantry. The vertical pivot-hung windows are arranged to open 135 degrees and are coupled together in ranges so that one gear operation opens the complete range. Thus ventilation can be controlled quickly to very fine degrees in accordance with either temperature or changes in wind direction.

Williams and Williams Ltd

Makers of Metal Windows, Doors and
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Consulting Engineers: W. S. ALEXANDER & PARTNERS



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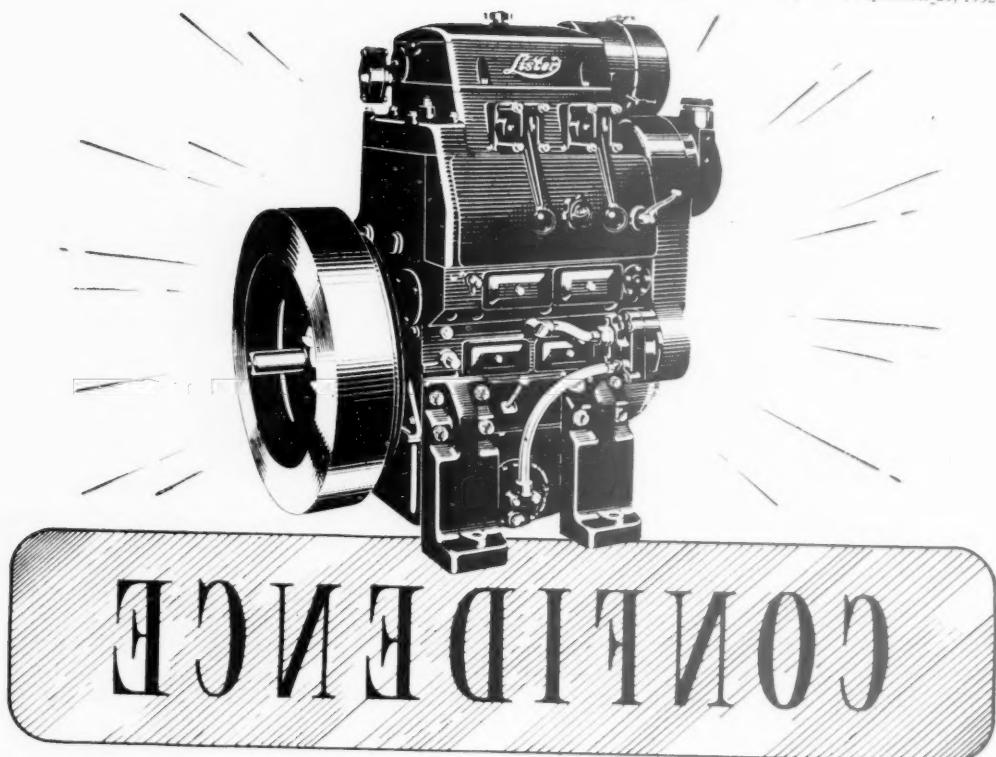
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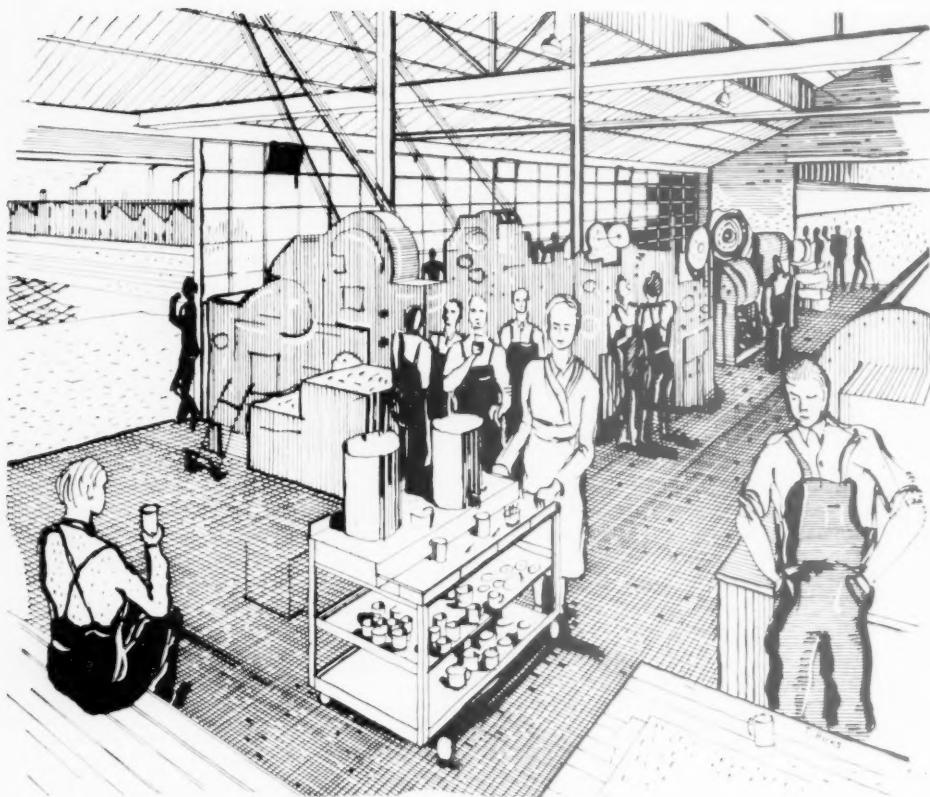
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GAS and the Factory tea bar

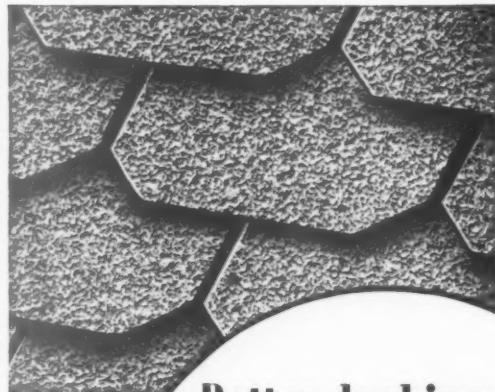
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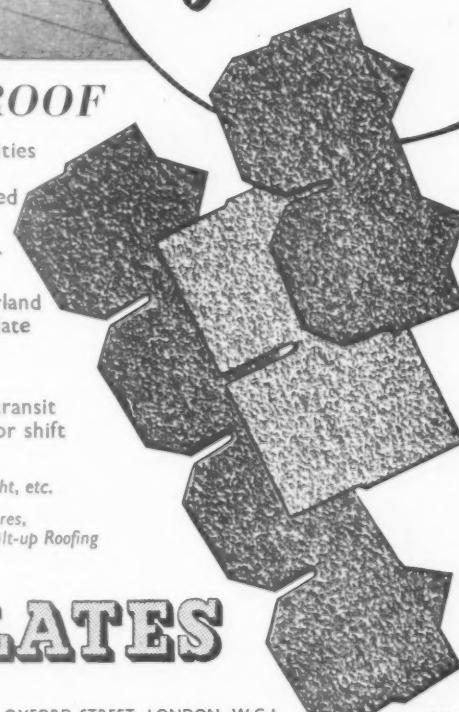
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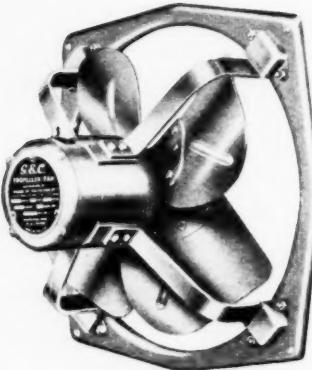
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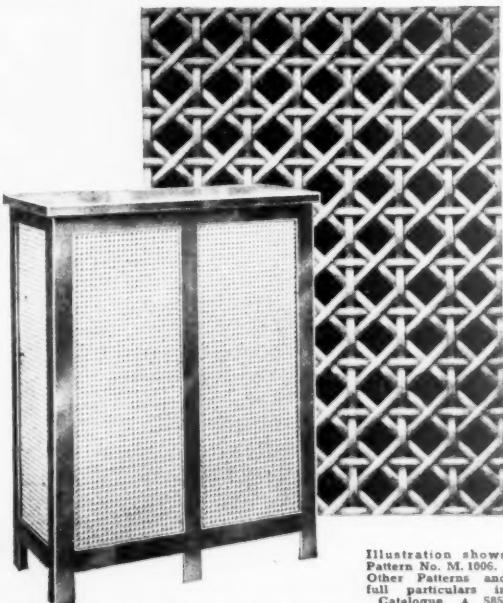


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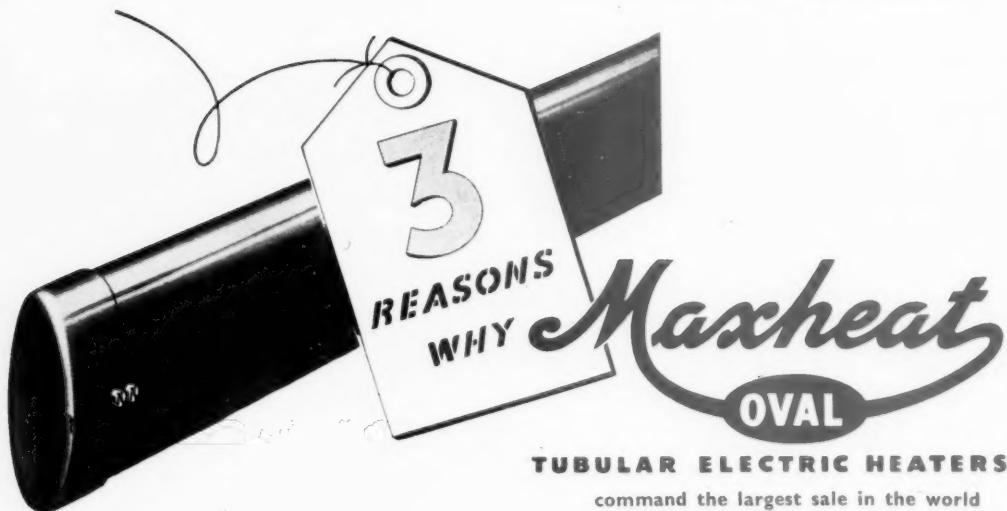
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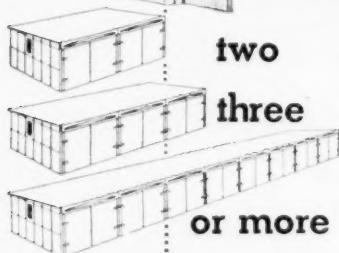
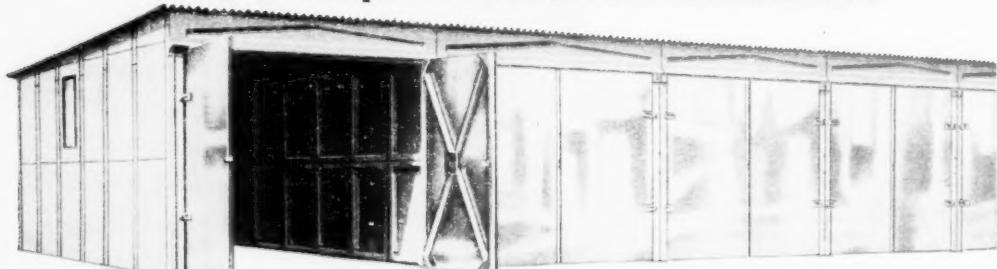
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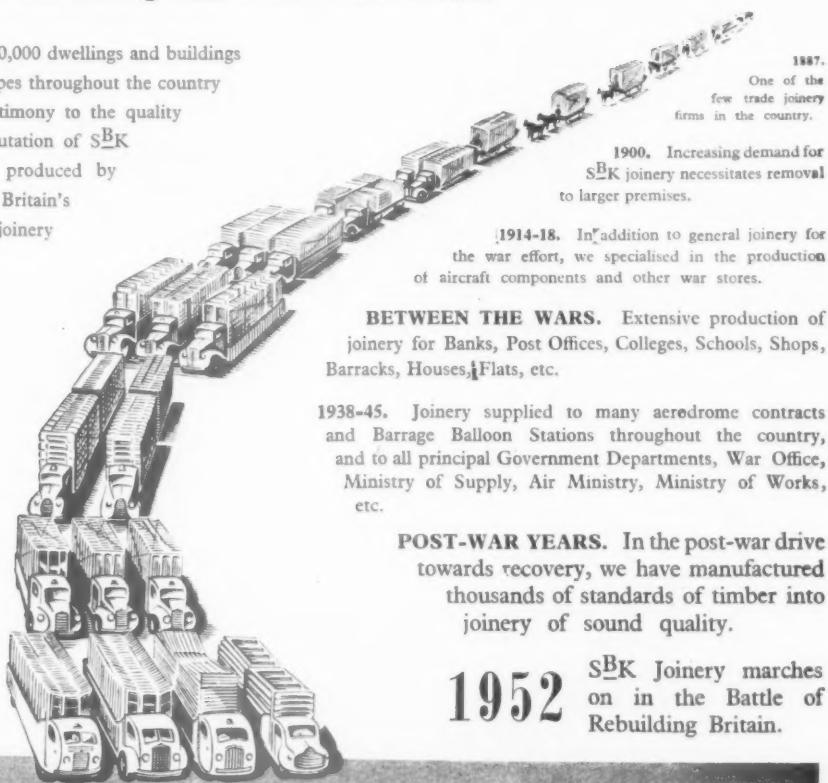
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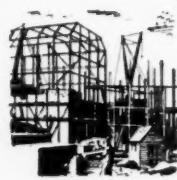
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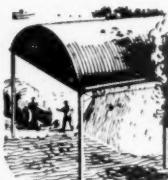
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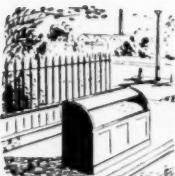
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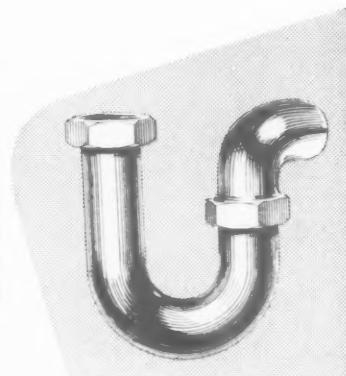
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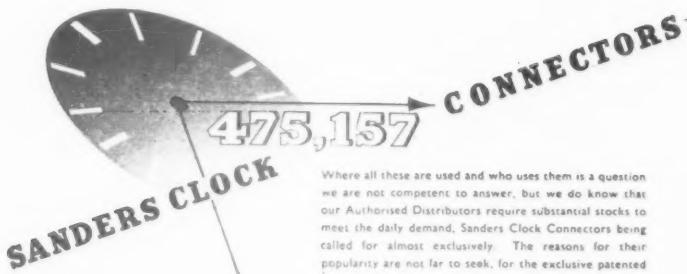
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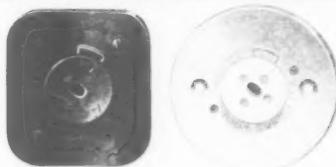
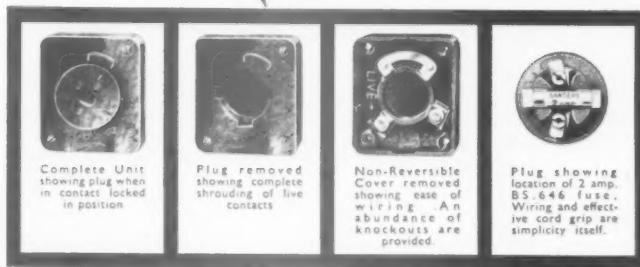
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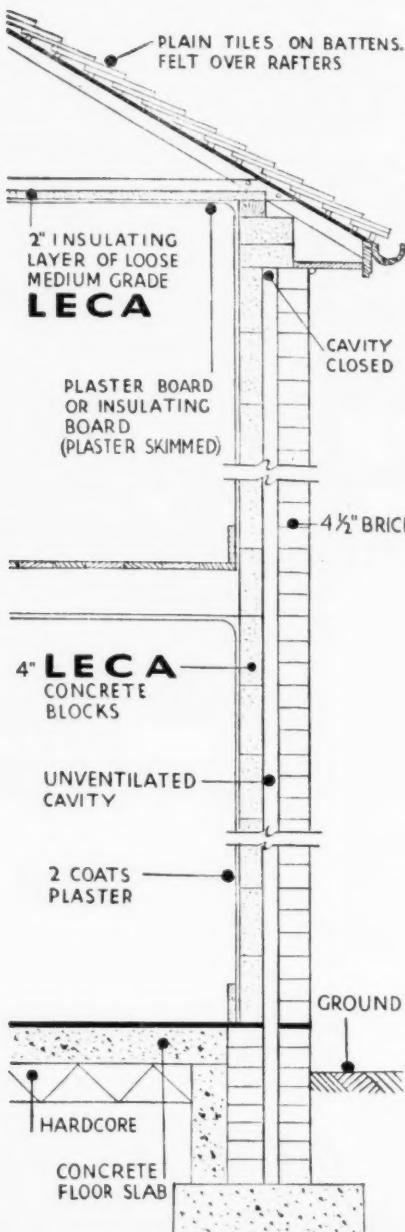
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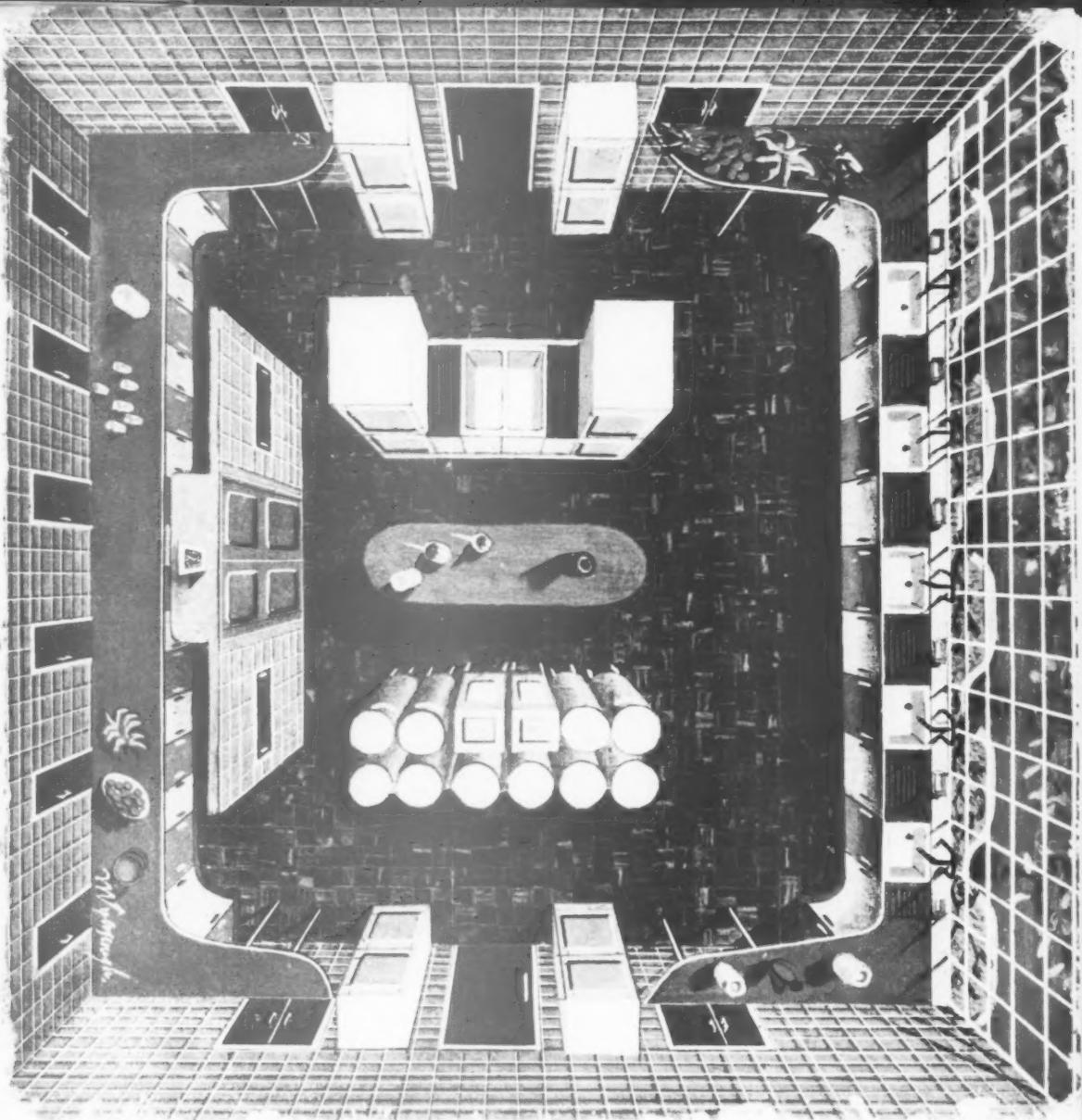
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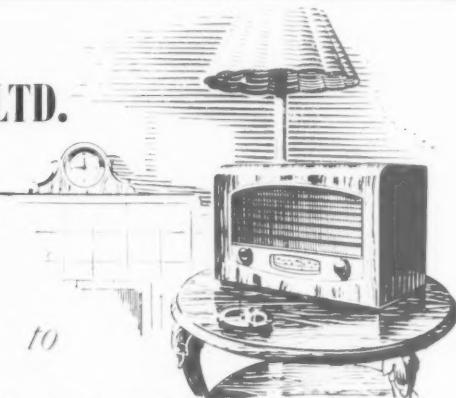
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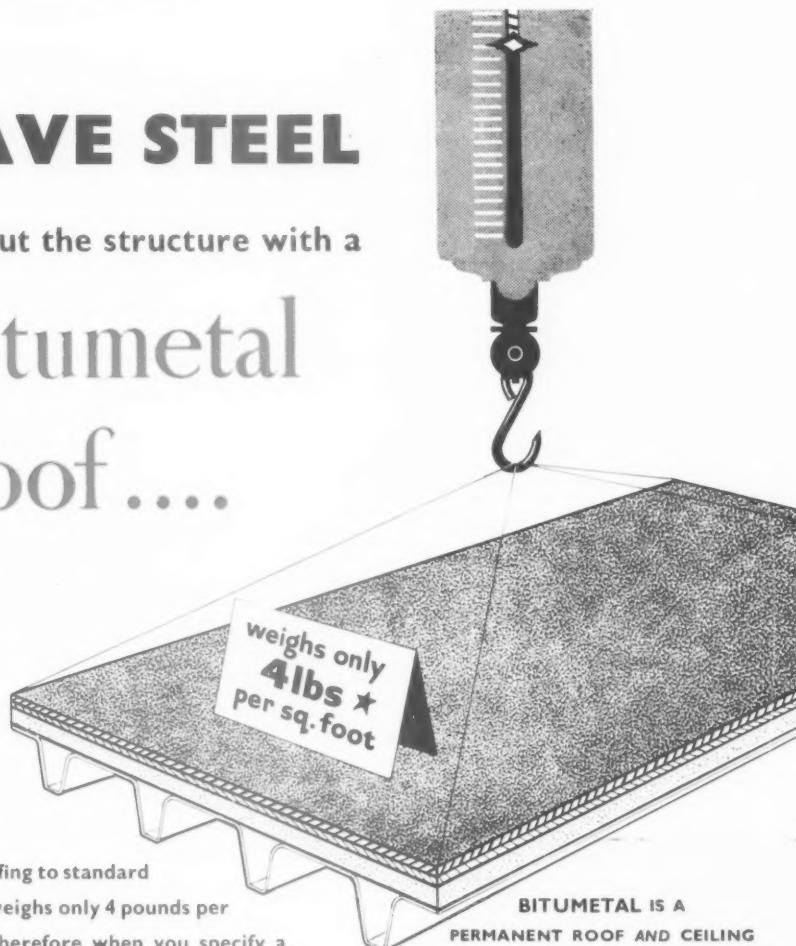
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THE
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September 25, 1952

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HOME TRUTHS

BY continuous attack through the columns of the press, by speakers at conferences and perhaps as a result of a little common sense, the Government has at last been persuaded that something must be done about housing, additional, that is, to its pre-occupation with building an ever-increasing number of new houses.

As long ago as December 1941, the problems connected with planned reconstitution of existing houses to meet an inevitable post-war shortage were discussed in some detail in these pages. We have drawn attention on many other occasions, in leaders and comments, to the effects to be expected from the neglect of repairs, the continuance of the rent restriction acts, the neglect of slum-clearance and the non-use of back and waste land in urban congestions; all these matters are inter-related and must be considered as parts of the whole problem of national amenity and housing and not made into water-tight issues by various departments and authorities.

The issues, or some of them, were pin-pointed this last week by an important letter to *The Times* from the Secretary of the Housing Centre Trust, which followed others, notably one from Lord Buckmaster, in the same columns. Bodies such as the Royal Chartered Surveyors' Institution, the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, the Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute and the National Federation of Property Owners, have added data and suggestions from time to time. The announcement that his Ministry was to make a full enquiry into the facts of the rent restriction situation was made at the

recent conference of the Association of Municipal Corporations at Folkestone by the Minister himself. In addition to this announcement he had something to say also about slum clearance and the re-development of slum property, urging Local Authorities to restart their schemes, without, however, any hope of extra subsidies for the work or of increased powers for requisition.

This would seem very piecemeal and sectional in the method of attack; it betrays again the old hate of planning, the fear of an overall consideration of the urban problem throughout the country. At the administrative level the whole matter of housing and rehousing is one for several departments coupled with a full Treasury investigation as a leading factor. The extent to which labour and materials can be strained is really subservient to the money that can be allocated. To determine the amounts and periods of allocation requires a very full examination of what is of real worth to the nation. The questions that arise basically cannot be answered by throwing the onus on the already hard-pressed Local Authorities or by hurried expediency amendments to the rents acts. These questions are, fundamentally, can the nation afford any longer to neglect its capital assets and to allow them to decay indefinitely? If it does, what is the material loss to the country and what the moral and physical degeneration of its inhabitants?

These things must not be the planks of any particular political platform or the prerequisites of any party. They are the ordinary concerns of everyman and his wife and, more important, the background

upon which the future well-being of the nation must rest.

The facts of the matter are reasonably clear and mostly available ; the one-per-cent 1951 census tables give an outline of the future that must not be ignored in the calculation of types of dwellings required over the next ten or twenty years and of the possibilities of reducing the number of new dwellings progressively during that period.

There are 13,312,000 separate dwellings in Great Britain and it has been estimated that about 4,000,000 of these are obsolescent or obsolete, being over-age mid-Victorian buildings, or are pre-fabricated bungalows and temporary structures of other kinds, the life of which is short. It is reasonable to assume that at least 3,000,000 of these are in a state of insufficient repair and otherwise sub-standard and which, as a result, increase the present demands for new and better accommodation.

Much of the work necessary on this below-par property is beyond the means of individual owners, even with improved rents or rating and taxation concessions : the Government must give Local Authorities greater powers and increased subsidies for the extensive municipal enterprise that is called for. It is not the individual house that can be economically dealt with, it is whole streets and whole areas progressively or at one time. If anything could be called "the new planning" this approach is that thing, for it means consideration of dwelling and layout planning and amenities in the largest sense, without the frustration of unrelated regulations and finance at present emanating from out-of-date pre-war conditions and administration. The City of Birmingham has not solved all its intense problems but its example, in a limited attack, on the repair and management of obsolescent housing is worthy of study.



Perspective by John A. Strubbe, A.R.I.B.A. of two east houses converted for Air Vice-Marshal Sir C. Collier.
(see also page 371).

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

OYSTERS AND ARCHITECTURE

Whitstable, home of Royal Natives, has never been famous for its architecture. Indeed, I was brought up on a story that the devil, pursued, I believe, by St. Dunstan, dropped the original Whitstable as he fled out to sea. Some of the houses fell in the sea, and hence the origin of the shingle bank known as the "street" which runs at right-angles to the shore. What the Devil was doing carrying houses about I do not know, but it seems unlikely that even the oldest existing buildings are the ones originally dropped by him. These oldest structures are mainly of wood-framed structure clothed in painted or tarred weather-boarding, and many of them are charming. They were, until very recently, the only architecture in Whitstable. For many years now the district has been the scene of countless architectural murders, most notorious of which were the series of unbelievably Tudoresque eruptions in the suburb of Chestfield. Elsewhere there has been an outbreak of what can only be described as Peggottyism. To this sprawling example of speculative building *in excelsis* has come the Sir William Nottidge School, designed for the Kent County Council by Yorke Resenberg and Mardell in association with Sidney Loweth, the K.C.C. architect. The site is superb—if anything which takes in at a sweeping glance all the unloveliness of the place—with views of sea and country beyond the town. Like all modern schools it is vast and sprawling, as it must be to accommodate its children and to provide them with the extravagant amount of daylight said to be so essential to their well-being. The building is straightforward and sensible. It plays no structural or decorative tricks and looks pleasant to work in. Finishes are plain and as cheap as decency will allow. There are no frills unless you count an occasional panel of wallpaper used as a mural. The water-tower and chimney stack have been ingeniously combined but I hear that the governors are to screen this part of the building with poplars. As Whitstable is all London clay I hope they will first read B.R.S. Digest No. 3. The building is no more or less than a good example of a contemporary school, but it stands out particularly because it stands near so much hideousness and so many lost opportunities.

For Whitstable's Royal Natives, however, no praise is too high. People will tell you that oysters are unobtainable in the town but this is not true. There are two pubs within twenty yards of the oyster store-house where the best may be bought and eaten. In one of the pubs there is an old sign: "Special. A dozen oysters, bread and butter, and a glass of stout, 1s." Things have changed since then. For me the taste of an oyster is the taste of Whitstable, that is, the old part of Whitstable, at the Seasalter end, among tumbledown boat sheds and weather-boarded houses.

CORRESPONDENCE

I had hoped that someone would have come to my assistance after Mr. Maufe's letter, but no. Mr. Maufe, in his turn, must not be allowed to get away with his parting side kick at the South Bank Exhibition. In the first part of his letter he wilfully misunderstands my use



Photo: J. McCann

M. Henry Auffret, D.P.L.G., City Architect of St. Malo, whose new school is illustrated in this issue.

* * *

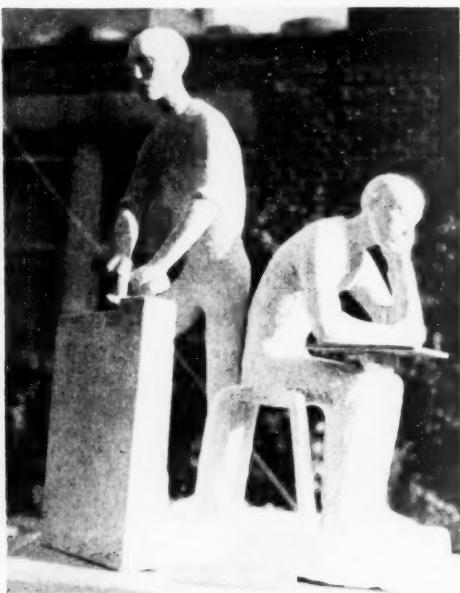
of the word contemporary, but I imagine that that was clear to most readers. Mr. Maufe is, of course, entitled to dislike South Bank architecture, but if he asks whether anyone has heard what foreign architects thought about the exhibition, my answer is yes, certainly. All those I met, and they were many, liked it very much, for even among understanding of the foreigners there is the same differing between contemporary and traditional.

(b) Edwin Gunn, the Evergreen! Faithful friend and supporter (see Correspondence). His name, of course, should have been among those architects suitable for the rebuilding of Lynmouth (see this page).

(c) Mr. Leonard Howitt's complaint about lavatories cannot be laid at my door. I have several times here campaigned for calling a privy a privy. Lavatory is very widely accepted, however, and I have never, as it were, tried to unseat it. Toilet is a beastly word but it is difficult to do without toilet paper. Advertisements in American magazines now sometimes refer to the bathroom when they mean the W.C. We may therefore expect our hosts to ask us in the future whether we would care to take a bath when we visit them.

FITZHARRIS HOUSE, ABINGDON

The latest architectural *cause célèbre* is Fitzharris House, a part Elizabethan part Georgian building with many historical associations on the edge of Abingdon. Very briefly this is the position. The house was occupied privately until shortly before the war. During the war it was used and was last inhabited in 1945 or 6. At one time the Abingdon Council considered using the park for housing. There were local objections and the housing was sited elsewhere. The property passed into the hands of the M.O.S. who, in spite of the objectors, laid out a housing estate for scientific workers while promising to preserve the trees.



Since the end of the war the staff of the Building Research Section of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation have been sending food parcels regularly to their colleagues on the staff of the Building Research Station in Great Britain. The British staff have for some time felt the need to acknowledge this generosity in some tangible and lasting way, and they have solved a difficult problem by asking a British artist, Miss Daphne Hardy, to prepare a sculpture group which is to be sent to Australia as a token of appreciation.

The group which has been called "The end is to build well," is symbolic of the nature of the work the two research centres are engaged upon. It has been carried out by a modelling technique in a mixture of sand, white cement and lime, built up on an armature of expanded metal. It is mounted on a base of polished sycamore.

The house was to be used for community purposes it seems but work on it was never started. In spite of the promises many trees were cut down and Fitzharris house was allowed to decay. Furthermore, it was not adequately protected from hooligans who did much damage inside and out. On the advice of the M.O.W. it is now proposed to pull down the house because the cost of rehabilitation—£20,000—is thought to be uneconomical.

A letter to *The Times* from the Friends of Abingdon brought the matter to public notice and various other bodies and individuals have added to the correspondence. Photographs of the house have been published in the Press.

In order to obtain better information I went to Abingdon one evening and was surprised to find that the housing estate is the best laid out and maintained of any I have ever seen anywhere. It is planned with Fitzharris House as a focal point obviously with the intention that the house be retained. Correspondents to the Press have slightly referred to the housing as being of yellow brick, and to the house as looking incongruous against the modern houses. The bricks look to me like very good buff facings and the house if restored would form an excellent composition with the very well-designed semi-detached houses. As for the trees, some may indeed have been cut down but many remain and many more have been planted. I do not want you to think that I am in favour of carving up twenty-acre estates and cutting down old trees, but it would be unfair when considering losses not to count gains. Thus only can the balance of good or evil be assessed. In the place of what was, I imagine, a delightful private park we now have a really excellent housing estate. The case of the house is quite different. It is said that it was inhabited until 1945 or 6 and since then has been allowed to go to ruin. The M.O.W. now says it will cost £20,000 to put right, those on the other side say that this is a gross exaggeration and that it could be done for £6,500. Judging from a superficial inspection I should say that both figures were somewhat wide of the mark.

The house as a piece of architecture is interesting without being important, although it has important historical associations for Abingdon. It has been much altered and added to. Restored, it would, as I have said, be a delightful centrepiece to the 140 houses which stand around it.

There are thus two points at issue. First what is a justifiable amount to spend on restoration and, second, how can the responsibility for allowing the house to run to ruin be brought home to someone. Correspondents in *The Times* have talked of the vacillation, callousness, and incompetence encountered in the long negotiations over the house. The record of these negotiations should be made public.

The outcome is, however, bound to be unsatisfactory for even if the house is saved the money necessary to make good the Ministry's neglect must come, not from the pocket of those most blameworthy, but from the wretched tax payer. We know from the National Trust Report for 1951-2 that owners of property all over the country are finding it impossible to carry out proper maintenance and without doubt better buildings than Fitzharris House are falling into decay. Nevertheless we still look to the Government to set an example and to look after its property so that unnecessary charges are not made upon the funds obtained by taxing other property owners.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Presentation of Royal Gold Medal for 1952

The presentation of the Royal Gold Medal for 1952, which had to be postponed on account of Mr. G. Grey Wornum's illness, will now take place at a general meeting to be held at the R.I.B.A. on Wednesday, November 12, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Marples to Study New Building Methods Abroad

Mr. Ernest Marples, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, will visit Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland on a twelve-day fact-finding tour to study methods of housing construction and post-war developments and technique. He will be accompanied by the Chief Architect and Housing Consultant to the Ministry, Mr. J. H. Forshaw.

The use of substitute materials and methods of prefabrication will be examined at first hand, and the countries chosen are among those which have made interesting experiments with new techniques.

In Zurich, where the tour begins on September 19, arrangements for the visit have been made by the City Architect, Mr. Steiner. In Frankfurt they have been made by the General Secretary of the German Housing and Town Planning Institute; in Hamburg by Professor Werner Hebebrand, Chief Architect; in Stockholm by Mr. Sven Markelius, of the Stockholm Town Planning Centre; in Copenhagen by Professor Rasmussen, the author of "Unique London," and Mr. Viggo Nrby, of the Ministry of Housing; and in Amsterdam and Rotterdam by the Netherlands Ministry of Reconstruction and Town Planning.

Two Ministers at the L.M.B.A. Luncheon

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, and the Minister of Works, Mr. David Eccles, are guests of the L.M.B.A. at the luncheon to the Lord Mayor to-day. Other guests include the Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, the Chairmen of the L.C.C. and of the Middlesex County Council, the Mayor of Westminster, the Presidents of the R.I.B.A., the R.I.C.S., the Architectural Association, the Institute of Builders, the National Federation, and the Masters of most of the City Companies connected with the building industry.

Exhibitions at the R.I.B.A.

Two centenaries of architects are to be marked by the R.I.B.A. this autumn. On November 18 Mrs. Phoebe Stanton is to read a paper on Augustus Welby Pugin to an open meeting of the

Library Group and at the same time it is hoped to arrange a small exhibition of sketches and books by Pugin.

The tercentenary of Inigo Jones is to be marked by a lecture given by Professor Wittkower on December 9 and by an exhibition using material from the Institute's own collection and also from Chatsworth. The material for this exhibition—which will remain on view till the end of the year—is already being assembled with the advice of Professor Geoffrey Webb and Dr. Margaret Whinney.

The first exhibition to be staged at the R.I.B.A. this Session, however, will be a small exhibition of Irish Architecture prepared by the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of External Affairs for Ireland. The main work of selection and preparation was undertaken by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and the exhibition contains examples of both historical and contemporary work. It is expected that the exhibition will be on view from October 14 until the end of the month.

Early in the New Year an exhibition of Dutch Architecture is to be held—the first ever to be staged at the R.I.B.A. The exhibition will illustrate the Dutch way of life as typified by its buildings and will show how the Dutch people have tackled the particular building problems they have had to face since the war. It is understood that part of the exhibition will be devoted to illustrating the new towns and villages being built in the North East Polder and the replanning of towns such as Rotterdam.

In April an exhibition of mural painting is to be shown, sponsored by the Society of Mural Painters. The purpose of this exhibition is to demonstrate how mural painting can be used to enhance and enrich contemporary buildings, and each mural will be displayed in an appropriate architectural setting. The murals are being specially painted for the purpose by well-known artists.

Travelling Exhibitions

During 1953 there will be no major exhibition at the Institute covering some field of work by British architects. The reason is that for a considerable time it has been felt that more should be done to make architectural exhibitions available in the Provinces. In particular the aim is to stimulate interest in the work of the architect among those sections of the public who do not have so much opportunity as the London public of seeing architectural exhibitions. The Public Relations Committee therefore hope that the exhibitions which they propose to prepare will be shown in such places as libraries, art galleries, town halls, schools, stores and other places where a "ready made" audience exists.

The first of these travelling exhibi-

tions, which will be ready early in the New Year, will deal with housing, particularly the problems of siting, layout and neighbourhood planning, the object being to demonstrate to the "man in the street" the advantages to be gained by employing architects on this work. The second exhibition, which will be designed as soon as the first is ready for touring will deal with the small house, particularly with the type of house which can be built under private licence.

The exhibitions will be toured on stands, specially made for the purpose, on which the screens will be ready mounted. The setting up of the exhibitions therefore will be a simple matter; moreover, the stands have been designed so that they can be adapted to suit various shapes and sizes of exhibition space. It is hoped to arrange for each of the travelling exhibitions to be on view in London for a short time before their provincial tours.

R.I.B.A. Maintenance Scholarships in Architecture

The Royal Institute of British Architects announce that the following Maintenance Scholarships have been awarded for the year 1952-1953: *An R.I.B.A. 4th and 5th Year Maintenance Scholarship* of £60 per annum to Mr. J. A. Hughes, of Abersoch, Caerns. *A Howe Green 4th and 5th Year Maintenance Scholarship* of £40 per annum to Mr. G. C. Freer, of Reading.

The Maintenance Scholarships previously awarded to the following candidates have been renewed: Mr. A. G. Diprose (Architectural Association—*Ralph Knott Memorial Maintenance Scholarship* of £45 per annum). Mr. Geoffrey Hill (Leeds School of Architecture—*Hartley Hogarth Maintenance Scholarship* of £21 per annum). Mr. D. G. Potter (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London—*R.I.B.A. Houston Maintenance Scholarship* of £125 per annum). Mr. H. R. Brady (Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London—*The Builder* Maintenance Scholarship of £68 per annum). Mr. A. Ray-Jones (Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London—*A.G.B.I. Maintenance Scholarship* of £27 per annum). Mr. D. S. Bremner (Aberdeen School of Architecture, Robert Gordon's Technical College—*R.I.B.A. Houston Maintenance Scholarship* of £125 per annum). Mr. B. E. Clack (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London—*R.I.B.A. Houston Maintenance Scholarship* of £125 per annum). Mr. A. G. H. Morrow (Department of Architecture, The Northern Polytechnic—*R.I.B.A. Houston Maintenance Scholarship* of £125 per annum). Mr. W. B. Sidnell (Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London—*R.I.B.A. Houston Maintenance Scholarship* of £125 per annum).

Public Enquiry into L.C.C. Development Plan

Details of Arrangements

The public local enquiry into objections to the L.C.C. Development Plan will be opened at the Central Hall, Westminster at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, September 29, and will continue there, beginning at 10 a.m. on each of the two following days. On Friday, October 3, the enquiry will reopen at the County Hall, Westminster Bridge, where the remainder of the enquiry will be held. There will be no sitting on Thursday, October 2.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, has appointed his Chief Inspector of Special Inquiries, Mr. K. S. Dodd, to preside. Mr. Dodd will be assisted by Mr. R. A. Youll, Mr. F. H. Carr and Mr. J. L. Wettton.

A development plan for the County of London was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government on December 31, 1951. The period envisaged by the regulations for lodging objections to a development plan is six weeks from the date of the first public advertisement of submission. But the L.C.C. fixed March 15, 1952, as the last day on which objections could be lodged, thus allowing a period of nearly 10 weeks. After further representations the Minister decided he would continue to record objections received up to August 16, 1952. The total of objections was nearly 6,300.

To meet the convenience of the large number of objectors various special arrangements have been made. The Central Hall which has been taken for the first sittings can seat more than 2,500 people. This will enable many of the objectors to attend the opening session as well as at the time when their own objections are heard. For the benefit of those who cannot attend, arrangements have been made to print copies of the Chief Inspector's opening statement about the conduct of the enquiry and of the opening address by Counsel for the L.C.C. on the plan as a whole. These will be available to objectors on application to:—*The Solicitor to the Council (Ref. LP/01), London County Council, County Hall, S.E.1.*

There will be opportunities for objectors to put questions of a general as well as of a particular nature when their objections are being heard.

Because of the wide scope of the enquiry and the large number of objections received, the Minister has arranged for the objections to be classified in separate groups, which will be heard separately. These groups are as follows:—

Group I, 1, City of Westminster; 2, Holborn; 3, Finsbury; 4, City of London; Group II, 5, Wandsworth; 6, Battersea; Group III, 7, St. Marylebone; 8, Paddington; Group IV, 9, Stepney; 10, Poplar; Group V, 11,

Greenwich; 12, Lewisham; Group VI, 13, Royal Borough of Kensington; 14, Chelsea; Group VII, 15, Camberwell; 16, Woolwich; Group VIII, 17, Hackney; 18, Stoke Newington; 19, Shoreditch; 20, Bethnal Green; 21, Islington; Group IX, 22, Bermondsey; 23, Deptford; Group X, 24, Southwark; 25, Lambeth; Group XI, 26, Hampstead; 27, St. Pancras; Group XII, 28, Fulham; 29, Hammersmith.

The sequence listed above will probably be followed, but the Inspector may vary the order during the progress of the enquiry to suit the convenience of objectors, their counsel, or officials.

It has been decided to take objections relating to the City of Westminster, at the opening of the enquiry, to be followed by the remainder of Group I, i.e., Holborn, Finsbury and the City of London.

General objections which do not relate to any particular property will be fitted in at convenient times at the discretion of the Inspector. Objectors interested in properties in more than one borough will be given the choice of appearing whenever a borough in which one of their properties is situated is under consideration, or of waiting until the end of the enquiry, when all their properties will be considered together.

All objectors or their agents, who have signified their intention to attend, or be represented at the enquiry, will be notified of the date on which it is expected that one of the inspectors will begin to hear the borough lists containing their objections.

The London County Council's Solicitor will notify each objector when it is anticipated that his individual objection will be heard. It is not expected that more than about 48 hours' notice will be possible and this will be given either by telephone or letter. Any enquiries by objectors or their agents should be addressed to The Solicitor to the Council, London County Council, County Hall, S.E.1. (Telephone WAT. 5000, Ext. 6673.)

Cathedral Concerts

IT is becoming the fashion for cathedrals and other great churches to be used for the performance, under essentially "concert" conditions, of both sacred and secular music. Wells and Truro Cathedrals, for instance, have both had recent visits from the Hallé orchestra, and Bath Abbey is well known for the recitals of the City of Bath Bach Choir. However, it takes a series of daily visits to such performances, with one's seat in various parts of the same building, to assess the suitability (acoustics apart) of such buildings for the rendering of music that is not an accompaniment to the normal liturgical activity of the church concerned. Such an opportunity came recently to me when enjoying a visit to the Three Choirs Festival at Hereford.

Now attendance at a secular concert or recital of sacred music is unquestionably incomplete, and somewhat lacking in the vital factor of audience participation, if one cannot see as well as hear what goes on; listening to a concert on the radio, on the other hand, brings with it a different frame of mind, and if performers and audience are in the same room then the patron's experience becomes, in essence, as much visual as a matter of hearing. But in our Romanesque or Gothic medieval cathedrals (except, perhaps, at Ely where the Octagon gives the auditory spaciousness of a central dome) a high proportion of the audience has no force to sit in the transepts and nave aisles. The result is that only those in the central alley of the nave, under the central tower, and in a few sectors of the nave aisles, can see as well as hear—the lucky ones are about 800 or 1,000 in a full Hereford audience of about 2,000. Yet an audience of about that size is essential if the main musical events, with the high expense that inevitably attends them, are not to be run at a loss. On my recent visit, with Hereford's sturdy cylindrical Norman pillars occupying an unusually high proportion of the cubic space of the nave, I was never lucky enough to be able to see more than a small slice of the orchestra and chorus which is banked up against the west end, and though I much enjoyed the music my appreciative faculties were somewhat distracted by the fierce draughts of an unusually cold early September, and by no small tension of limb caused by the uncompromising hardness of the folding chairs installed for a high proportion of those present. Indeed, of all the events I attended in the Cathedral, the one where aesthetic enjoyment was least allayed by all these important physical factors was the evensong sung jointly by the three combined choirs with the cathedral being used for its normal liturgical purpose with none of the special festival arrangements brought into play. One comes to the conclusion that places of worship designed or radically reconstructed as "auditory" churches are the only ones really suitable for concert music with large audiences. For all the gallant feats of furnishing and adaptation achieved in the Three Choirs Cathedrals, one cannot really say the same for great aisled churches designed for a liturgical worship which never presupposed the presence of mammoth congregations with everyone fixing an unimpeded gaze on a focal point.

B. L.

Mr. A. Beaumont Owles, A.R.I.B.A., practising under the style of Bostock & Partners, informs us that the telephone number of his new offices at Ide House, 12, Fife Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, is Kingston 7281. The telephone number and address of his main offices at Southall remain unchanged.



Recent buildings in the city of Kalinin, U.S.S.R. Top : The River Terminus. Below : blocks of flats completed last year. Kalinin was badly damaged during the war and is being rebuilt to a new reconstruction plan.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Small Homes Service

To the Editor of *A. & B. N.*

Sir,—The Australian Scheme enthrals me! Years ago, when Raymond Unwin was R.I.B.A. President and I a humble Associate Member of Council, I had the temerity to propose something similar. This was sympathetically received by the President, but the Council was cold!

When Arnold Mitchell won a *Daily Mail* Competition, he had in scale drawings of his design printed and sold these with the specification to any

applicant. I believe five guineas was the price, and a good many were built. (Private Enterprise!)

I can imagine no more promising field than Australia for development by this means of a characteristic modern type of house; there will be little fear of outraging architectural amenity, and absolute freedom to accord with the preferred way of life.

I am, etc.,

EDWIN GUNN.

Uno What?

To the Editor of *A. & B. N.*

Sir,—I noticed in your issue of

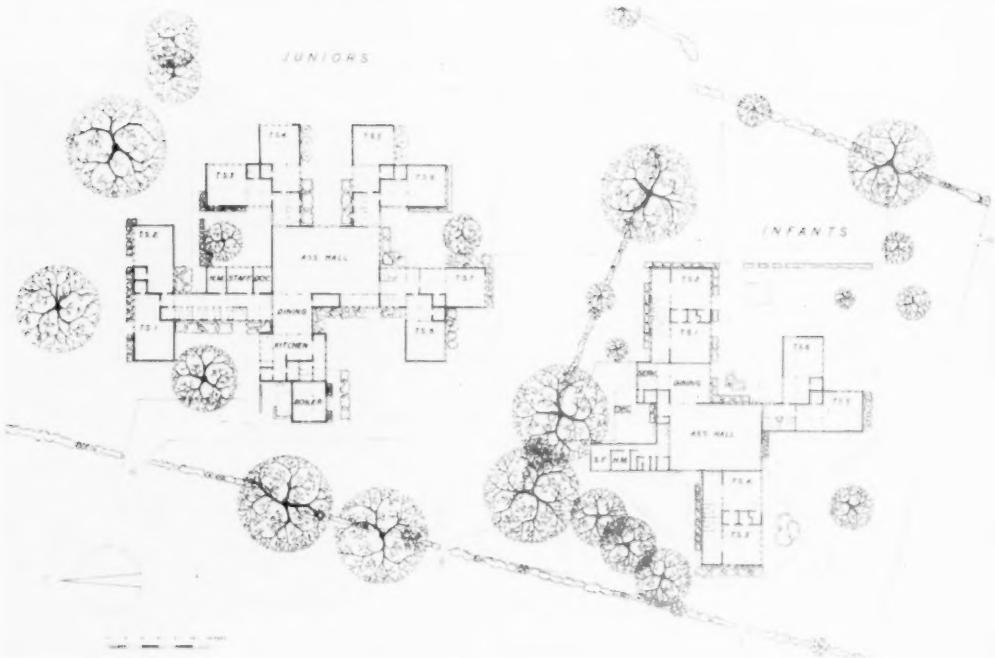
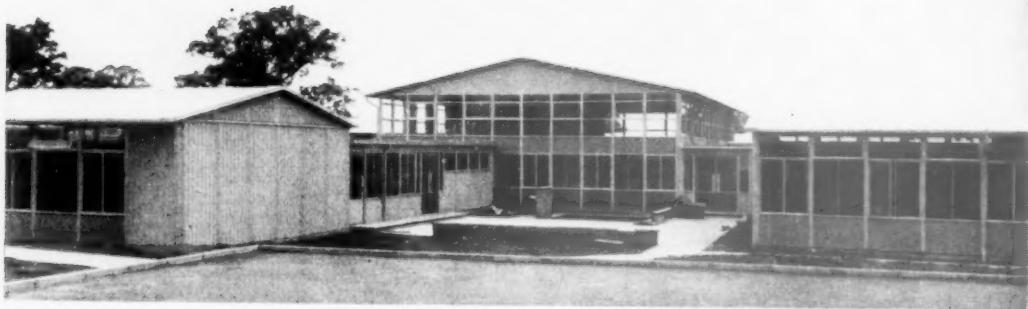
September 11 in the course of a description of a house in Sheffield, there appeared the phrase "the upstairs lavatory was transferred into the bathroom. . . ."

Are we to infer that you have become converted to the use of the layman's misnomer for the W.C. or was this term used for reasons of modesty because the house was designed by a lady architect?

If the former is the case, why not be really up to date and call it the "toilet" or even the "Uno"?

I am, etc.,

LEONARD C. HOWITT.



LIMBRICK WOOD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, COVENTRY

Occupied within thirteen months of the start of building in August, 1951, Limbrick Wood County Primary School, Coventry, is the first "Bristol" Mark IA aluminium school to be opened and also the first now functioning to be designed by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with a local education authority.

Use of "Bristol" aluminium units has enabled the school to be built twice as quickly as the average school of traditional construction, despite Coventry's severe shortage of building labour. Cost has been confined to the limit of £140 per place laid down by the Ministry. Limbrick Wood school is designed for 560 children aged 5-11 and consists of two separate self-contained departments for infants and juniors. The Infants' Department has six classrooms for children aged 5-7 and the Junior Dept. eight classrooms for pupils age 7-11. Each department has its own assembly hall and dining facilities.

In planning and building the school, the aim has been to cut out all unnecessary space and to provide maximum usable teaching accommodation. The area per place is 46.8 square feet compared with an average for schools of similar type and date of over 50 square feet. Of the total accommodation provided 68.5% is usable teaching accommodation, compared with an average of about 50%. All classrooms are about 800 sq. ft. in area compared with the prescribed minimum area of 520 sq. ft.

The project has been carried out jointly by the Local Education Authority the Development Group of the Ministry of Education, and the "Bristol" company, and the contractors Messrs. Gilbert Ash. In the development of the Mark IA system of construction the aim has been to provide a series of small standardised components which can be assembled easily and rapidly, with the minimum "wet work," in a variety of ways. Walls, roofs, partitions, windows and doors have all been erected on this "meccano set" principle. In addition, the equipment for services, notably the heating and electrical equipment, has been designed for rapid installation.

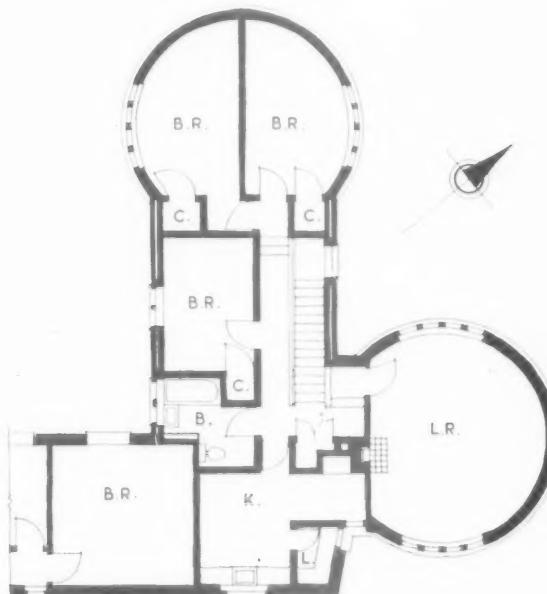
The system of construction is now being developed to enable buildings of up to three storeys in height to be erected.

Conversion of Two Oast Houses at Fairbourne Manor, Harrietsham, Kent

ARCHITECTS : JOHN A. STRUBBE & PARTNERS A.I.A.R.I.B.A.



PART S-EAST ELEVATION.



PART PLAN.

10 0 10 20 FEET.

THIS contract consisted of the partial reconstruction of two oast houses and the barn joining them to form living accommodation at first floor level. The ground floor continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

As the existing roof timbers were infested with woodworm the opportunity was taken to completely reconstruct the upper part of the oast houses. New brick walls were constructed, from the level of the existing eaves, on top of the existing stonework and the roof was re-formed at a lower pitch and continuous with that over the rectangular barn. By this means it was possible to provide rooms at first floor level of ample size and with a ceiling height to comply with by-law requirements. The upper part of one oast forms a living room and the other forms two bedrooms.

The new roof framing was formed of light radial timber trusses, no member exceeding 3in x 1½in. These support intermediate rafters by means of a 4in x 2in purlin and 3in x 2in trimmer. Owing to the fact that the trusses converge at the centre it was not necessary for the ceiling joists to extend more than half way from the outer walls to the centre.

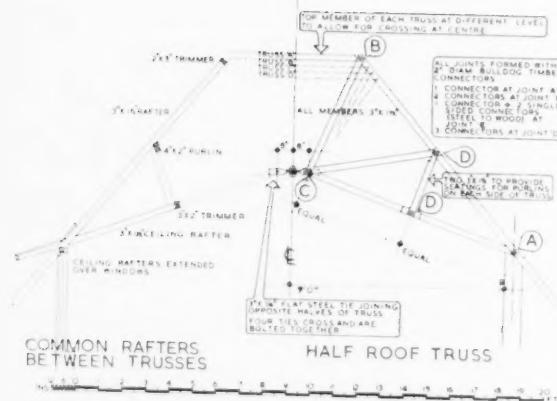
All joints in the roof trusses were formed with 2in diameter "Bulldog" Timber Connectors. The half trusses were connected at the centre by means of four steel straps, all of which were bolted together. This form of framing enabled the roof to be erected with the minimum of labour and plant in a reasonably short time and using the minimum amount of timber.

The roof covering consisted of the existing oast house tiles, which were of special curved section, with new pegs. The small flat at the centre of each oast, at the level of the ridge of the barn roof, was covered with sheet copper on ½in boarding.

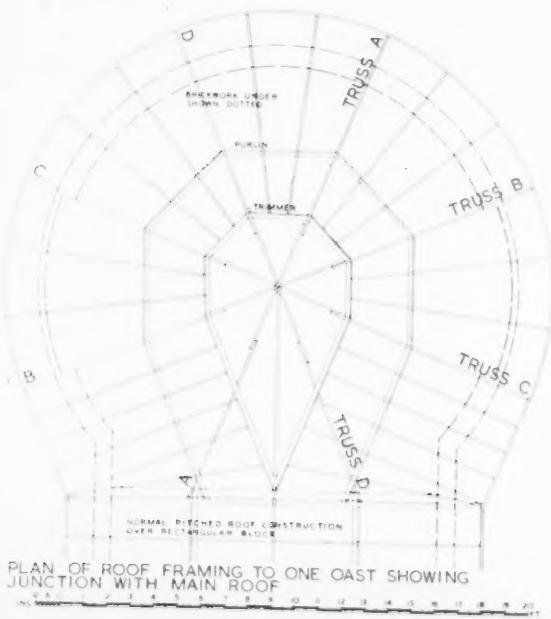
Contractors : J. A. Bonner, Detling, Maidstone.



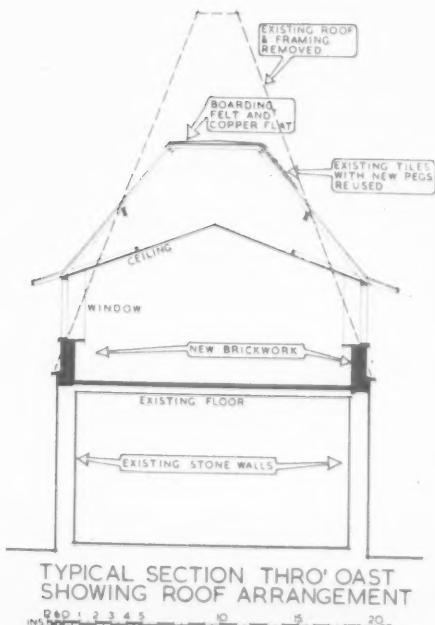
PART N-EAST ELEVATION.

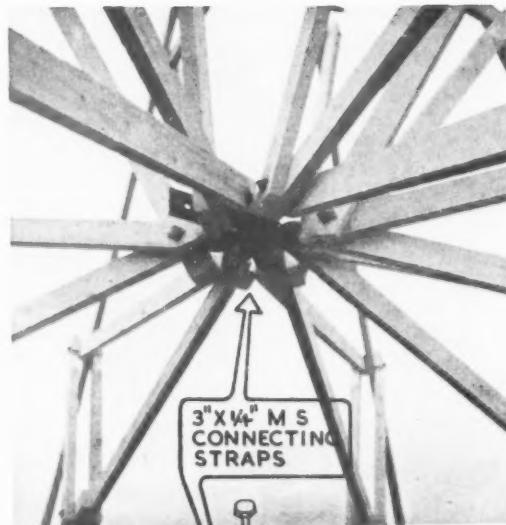


CONVERSION OF TWO
OAST HOUSES FOR
AIR VICE-MARSHAL
SIR CONRAD COLLIER

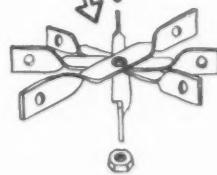


PLAN OF ROOF FRAMING TO ONE OAST SHOWING
JUNCTION WITH MAIN ROOF

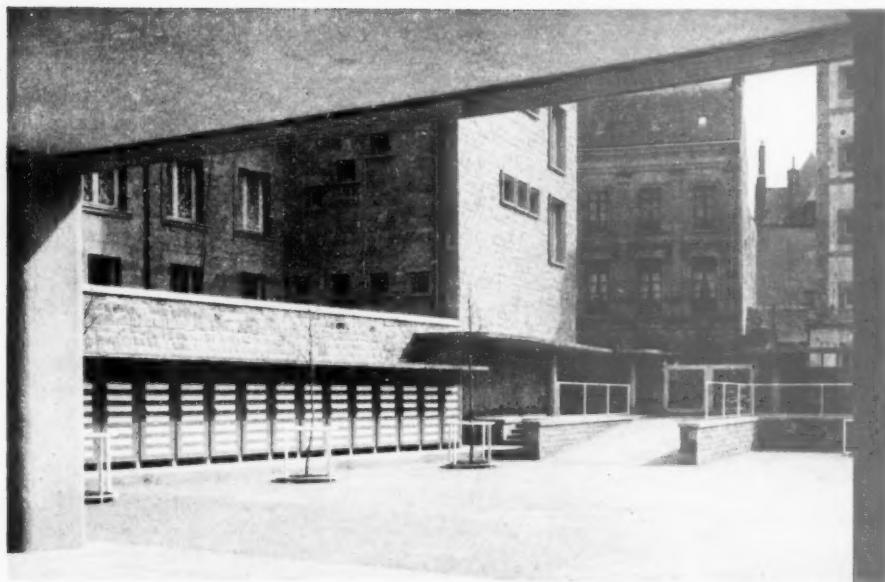




details of the
new roof framing

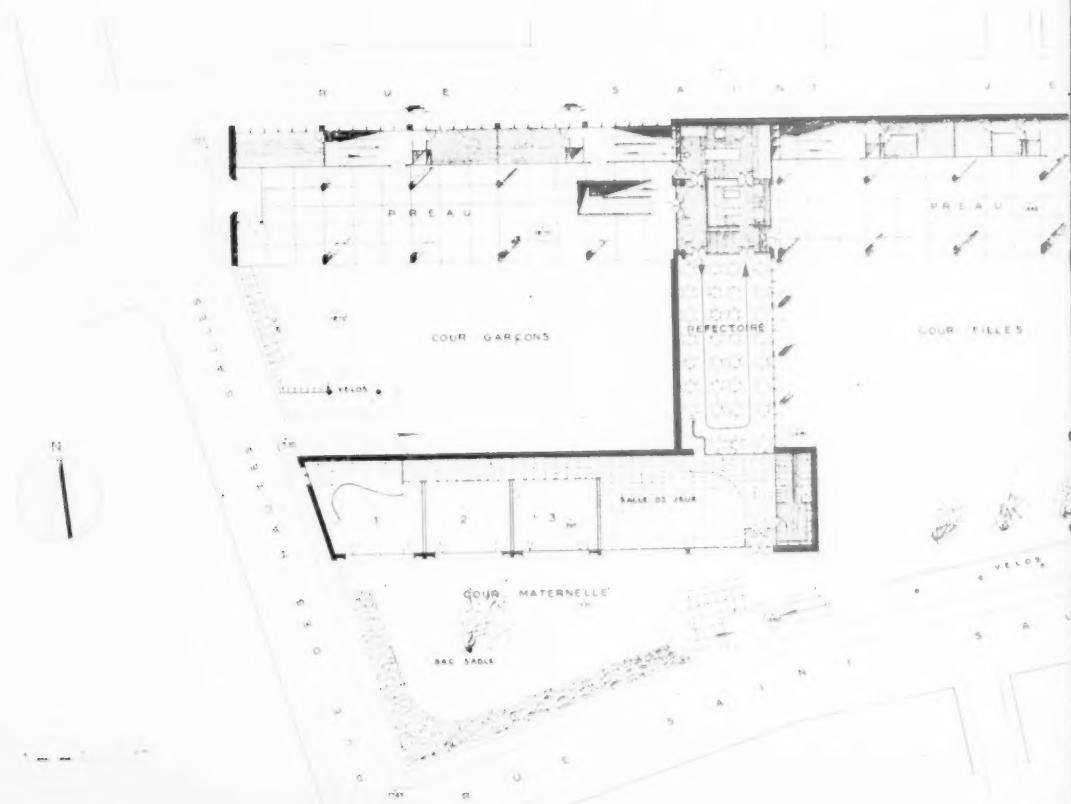


ARCHITECTS: JOHN A. STRUBBE & PARTNERS, A.A.R.I.B.A.



N e w

Girls' playground entrance & W.C.s.
Paintwork is
green and white.



SCHOOL AT ST. MALO, France

ST. MALO is a walled City on a peninsula, and consequently there is no room for development outside its walls. The whole city was destroyed when the German forces withdrew, and it is now being completely rebuilt. The Architect of St. Malo, M. Henry Auffret had therefore a very restricted site on which to build the required secondary school for about 400 pupils and a smaller nursery school (école maternelle) together with living accommodation for the teachers. This explains why the boys' playground is on the roof of the nursery school.

The main block consists of:—Ground Floor: refectory, kitchens, etc., and covered play-space. First and Second Floors: Class-rooms and cloak-rooms. Third and Fourth Floors: Flats for School Staff.

The building is of r.c. construction and local granite. All concrete surfaces have been roughened to harmonize with the granite.

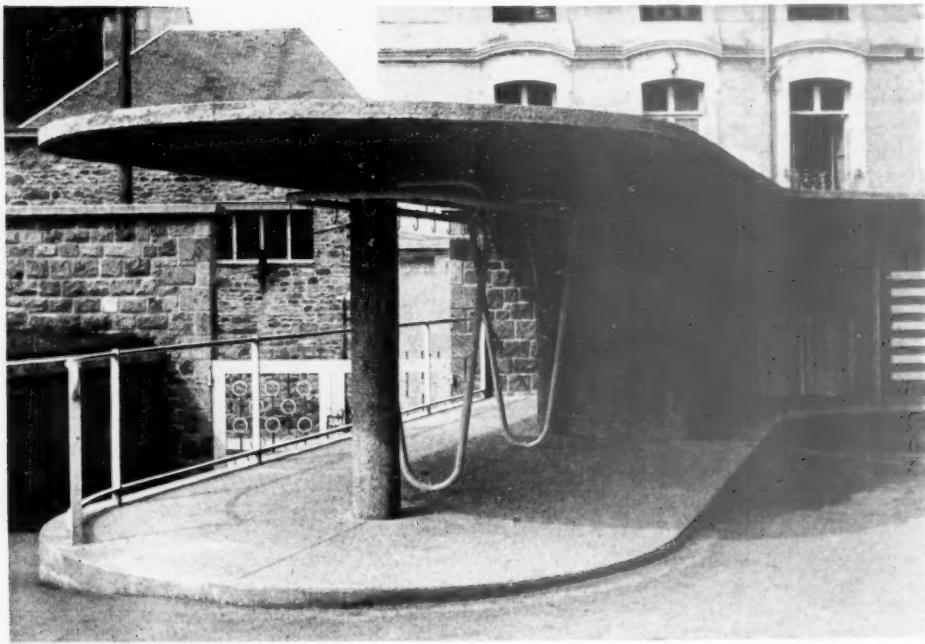
There are murals in all the nursery school rooms by Madeleine Chauffrey and in the refectory by Yves Trévidy.

Photos: John McCann, A.I.B.P., A.R.P.S. and June McCann.

ARCHITECT: HENRY AUFRRET, D.P.L.G.
Architect de la Ville
de Saint-Malo

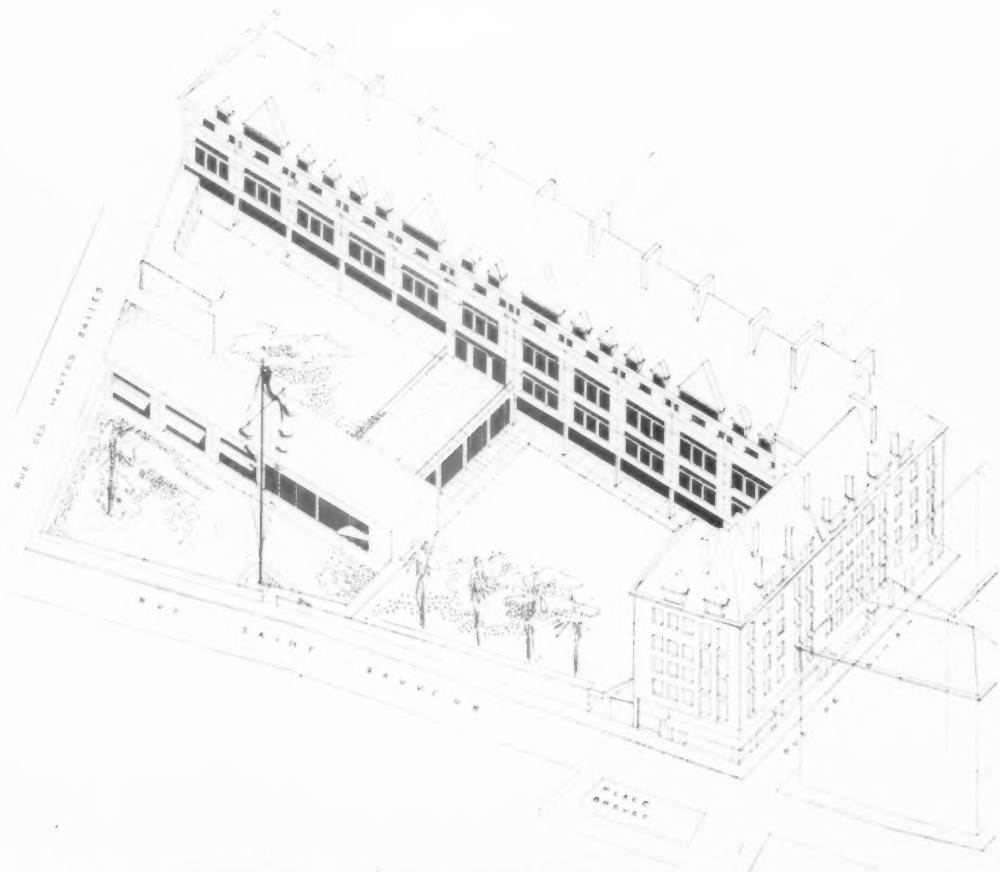
detail of trees
and railings in
girls' playground.





Below : General view from S.W. Nursery School in foreground. Boys' playground on roof. Above : Cycle shelter.



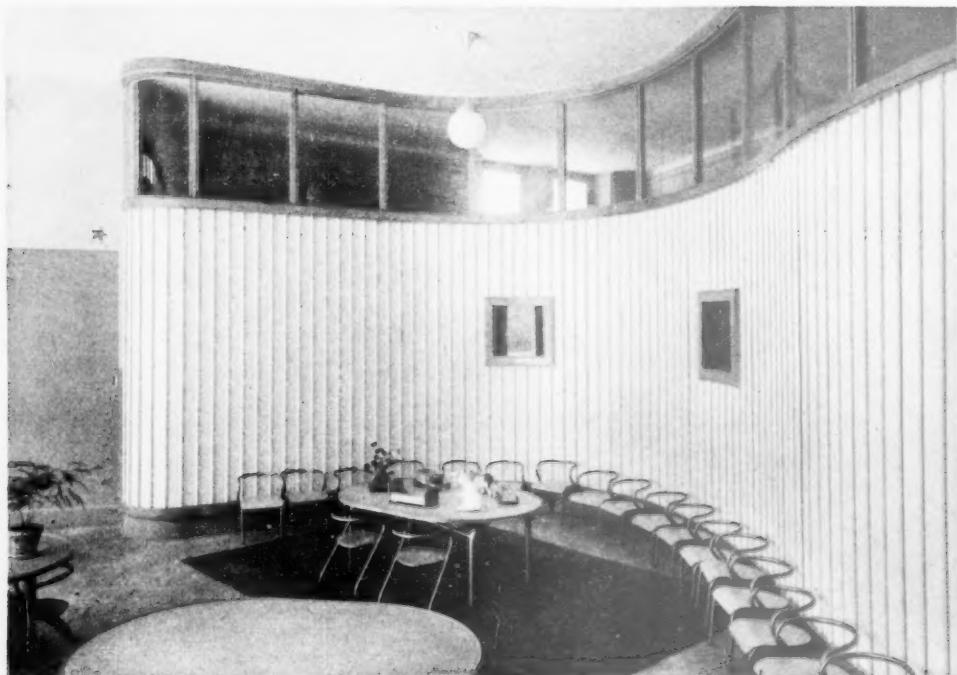


Change of level
at the entrance to
Nursery School.

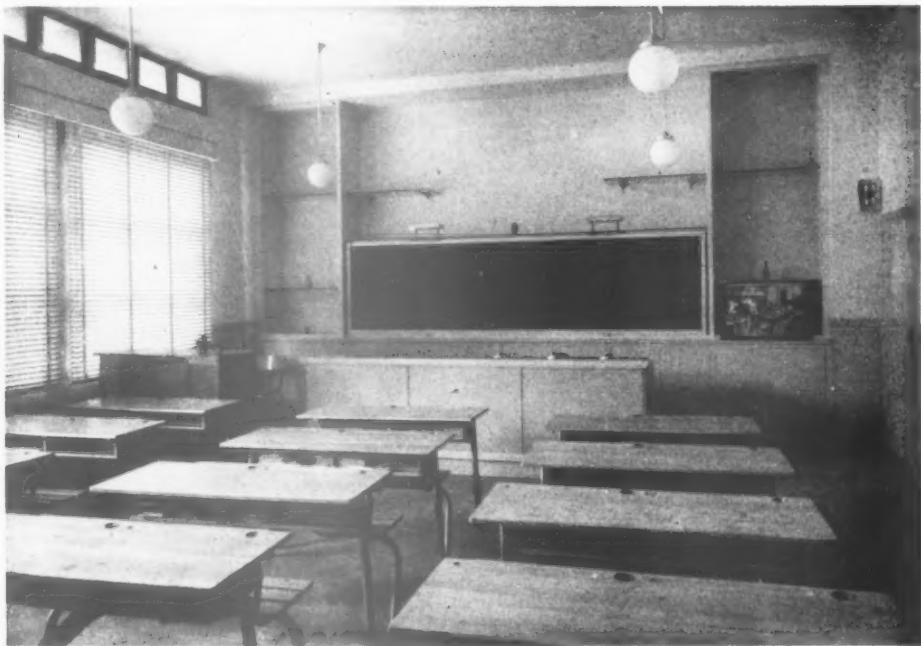




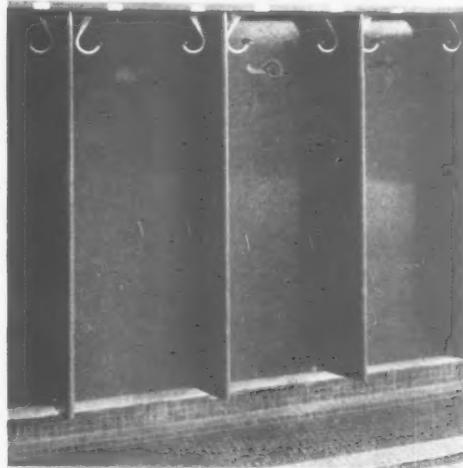
Above: The Refectory. The tables are in Formica.
Below: Nursery School, three-year-old's section. Behind partition is a rest space.



SCHOOL AT ST. MALO.

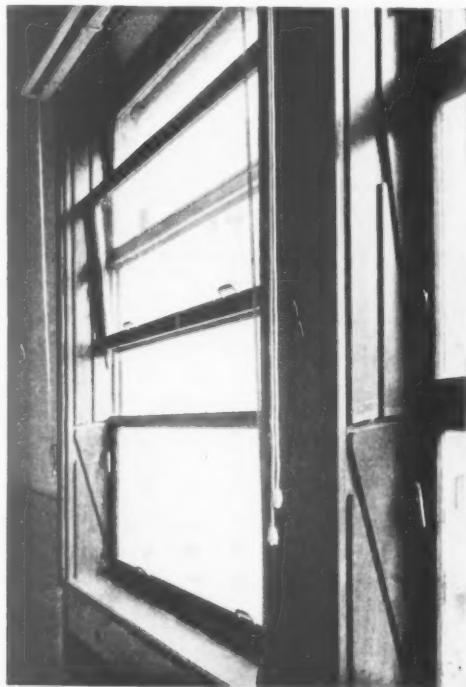


Above: Chemistry class-room shared by boys and girls. All class-rooms have venetian blinds. All other class-rooms are exclusive to girls or boys.



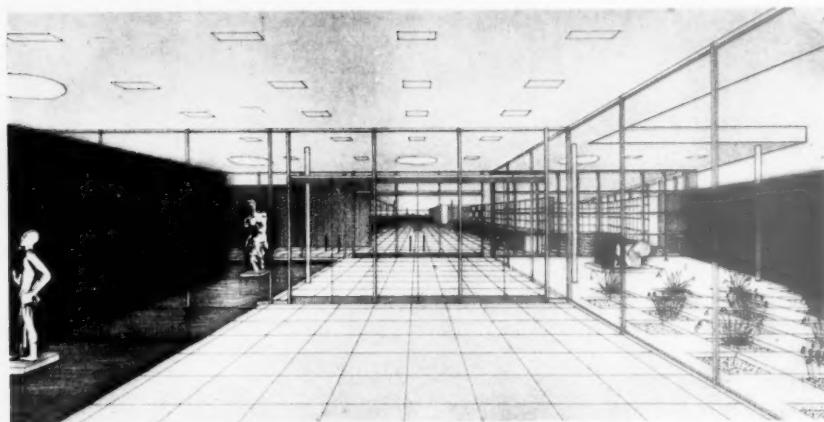
All cloak-room hanging spaces are built up from standard L-shape sheet steel, stove enamelled.

Right: Typical class-room window designed by the Architect.

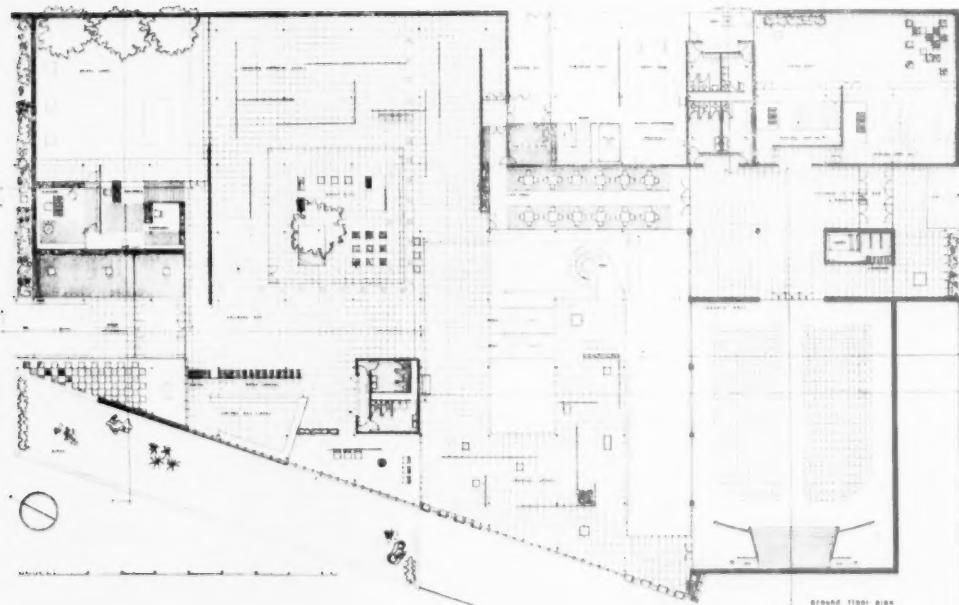


L I V E R P O O L S C H O O L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E

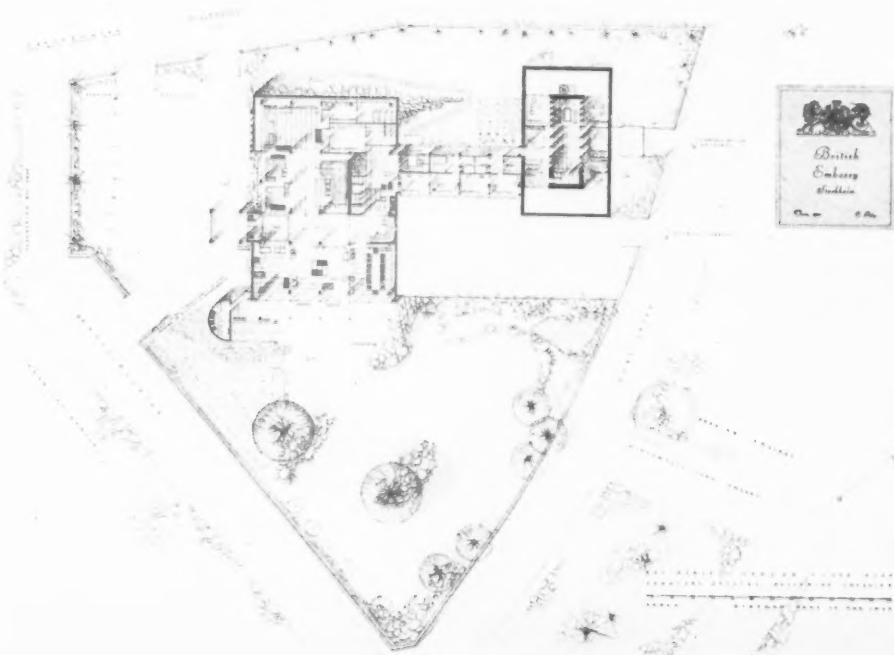
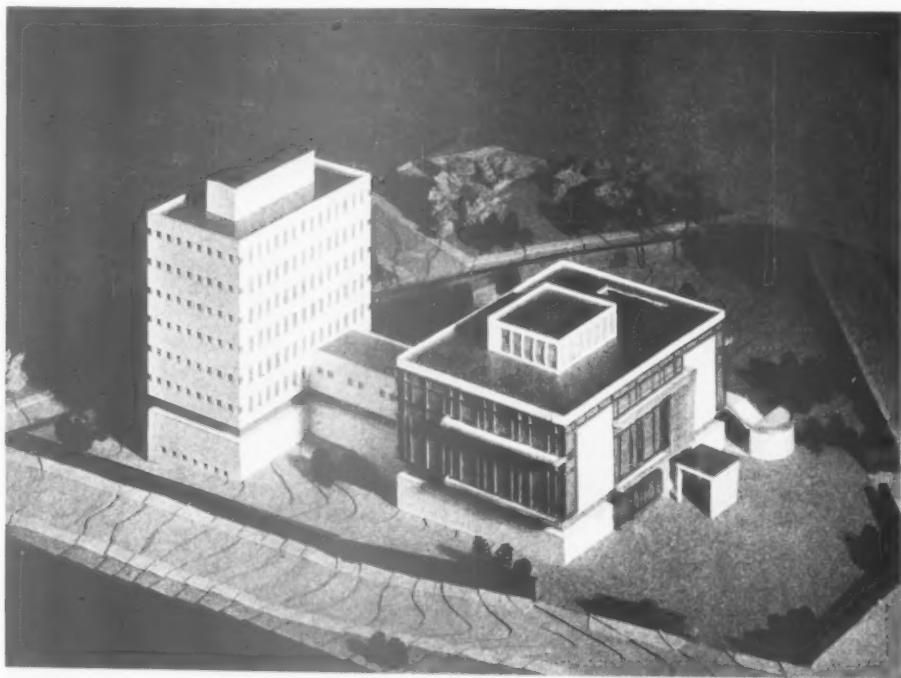
A selection from the Annual Exhibition of Students' Work, 1952. (See also pages 382 and 383)



FIFTH YEAR : Thesis Design for an Art Gallery in Blackpool ;
Interior Perspective and Plan. By G. W. CARTMELL.



CHARLES REILLY MEDAL & PRIZE, 1952
A British Embassy for Stockholm.
By CHRISTOPHER RILEY



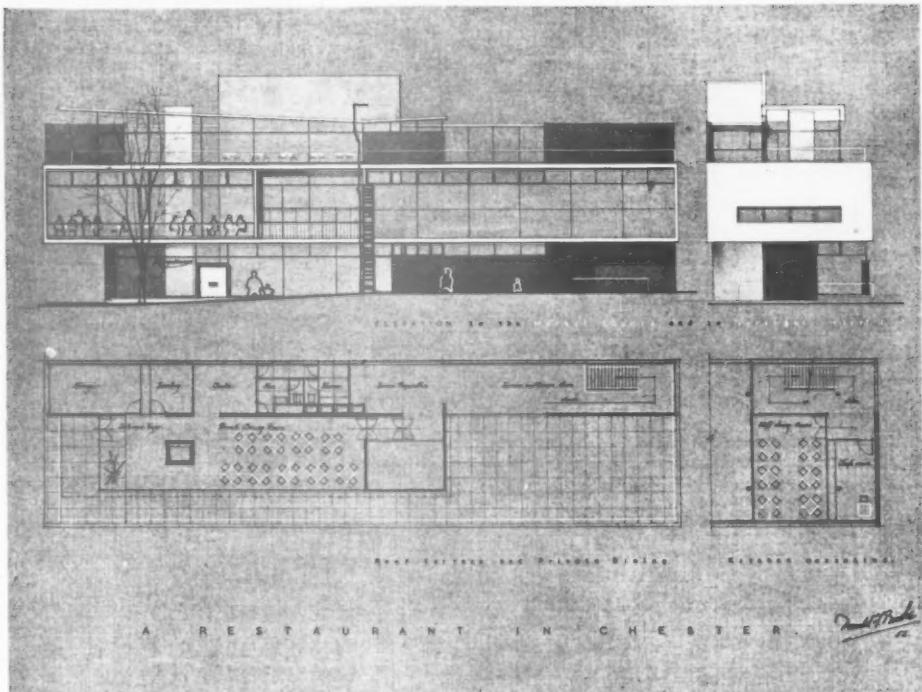


FIFTH YEAR : Thesis Design for an Institute of Contemporary Arts, Berkeley Square, London. BY PETER DOVELL.

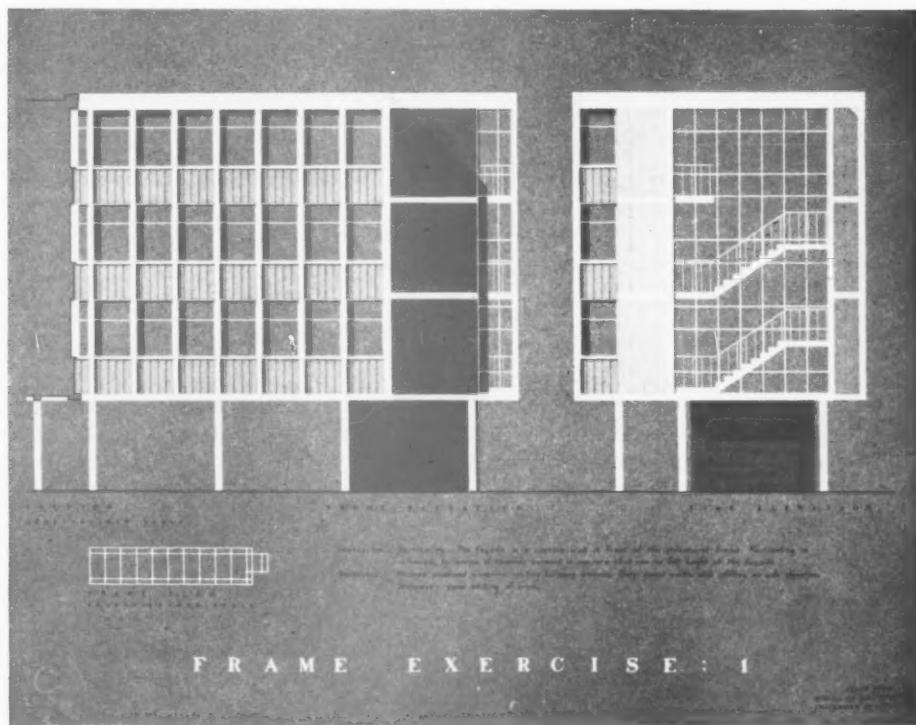


A HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
FOR THE ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY

FIFTH YEAR : Thesis Design for a Headquarters Building for the Royal Empire Society, London. By CHRISTOPHER M. DEAN.



FOURTH YEAR: Design for a Restaurant in Chester, by DONALD F. BROOKE.



THIRD YEAR: Exercise in Expression of Steel Frame Structure. R. M. ROSTROM.



START—By Mr. David Eccles,
Minister of Works at 8 a.m.

FINISH—Cheered by girls who
worked on components of the
house, at 4.10 p.m.

**ONE-DAY ASSEMBLY OF
THE RILEY-NEWSUM
HOUSE**

At Lincoln, early this month, ten men assembled a three-bedroom house between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4.10 p.m. The house is of timber, one of 28 houses specially designed for export to Canada by Mr. H. Riley and manufactured by the Lincoln firm of H. Newsum & Co. Ltd.



**Three stages in the erection of the Riley-Newsum house—Top :
position at 9.40 a.m.; middle : at 10 a.m.; bottom : at 3.30 p.m.**

American News Letter-2

BOSTON is the focal point of a region in which modern building is progressing at a rate comparable to that of San Francisco Bay, Chicago and California. As a centre of ideas it owes its position to the two schools of architecture which exist almost side by side in the city. William Wurster at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Walter Gropius at Harvard have between them stirred up quite a hornets' nest of activity. Now that both have retired it will be interesting to see how firmly their ideas are embedded.

Boston, on the coastline about 200 miles north of New York, is surprisingly large and industrial, and not at all on the scale of Oxford or Cambridge. It is outside the city that one must look for the new development, in a wonderful countryside of fine trees—maple, oak, elm and pine in every direction as far as the motoring eye can see. Here, scattered about peaceful sunny villages like Lexington, Concord and Lincoln whose spacious greens and thick trees are so reminiscent of England, and yet so different, stand the modern houses designed by Marcel Breuer, Carl Koch, Walter Gropius and the Architects Collaborative, and many others that the glossy architectural magazines have been illustrating for so long. As one drives along the pleasant roads panels of primary colours and single pitch roofs are never very far away—homes of intelligent and sophisticated people to whom the modern idea for living has made a genuine appeal.

The numbers of these houses are quite startling. The Architects Collaborative (TAC, pronounced *Tack*) has designed at least seventy-five, and Carl Koch is responsible for at least as many more. These houses continue the New England tradition of stud frame and clapboarding, and add the provision of large areas of glass bringing the countryside right into the living room. Koch carries this to the literal extreme of allowing living rock to project through the surface concrete and surrounding it with soil and natural planting. It seems to me that this tendency is no less than an alternative to the traditional covered verandah surrounded by cool greenery on which New England families take full advantage of the evening breezes and late afternoon sun. Pleasant as the verandah feature is, particularly from an architectural point of view when repeated down each side of an avenue, it makes the rooms behind it dark and gloomy. In the new houses the verandah is virtually the entire house.

In their approaches to the simple but infinitely variable problem of the single family house, the Architects Collaborative and Carl Koch differ fundamentally, I think. Koch, with his early training in the office of Sven Markelius in Sweden and his habit of designing houses almost on the site with a stick, brings an essentially romantic temperament to bear. Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in his own house which is nearing completion near Concord.

This is part of the Conantum Project, a development of Koch's earlier idea of group housing in his well-known Snake Hills Project. At Conantum, as in the earlier scheme, the house owners form a corporation pooling their financial resources for the good of the whole. Instead of the nine owners co-operating at Snake Hill, however, Conantum comprises one hundred owners and the scheme is administered by an architect, a builder and an economist.

In order to simplify detailing and reduce costs Koch has adopted as a standard shell a traditional timber barn-like structure with a high pitched roof overhanging 3ft at the gable ends. This roof allows for an expansion attic which can take the form of bedrooms for the third and

fourth children when necessary, a large play or hobbies room, or simply as storage space.

These units are combined into a kind of neighbourhood by the landscaping of the site and special features such as swimming pools and children's play areas with swings and slides which are made possible by the co-operative idea. In Koch's own house an unusual twist has been given to the basic shell unit. It is sited on a steep slope overlooking a magnificent view over dense forest; one entire gable wall is glazed with 8ft by 9ft sheets of glass and both upper floors cut back so that at this point the groundfloor room is the full height of the house. The dramatic effect of this is heightened by a huge clump of natural rock that sits in the corner and will be surrounded by natural planting and winding stone steps from the entrance on the first floor. In its half finished state as I saw it, with cedar shingles on both sides of the stud frame the house looked as much a part of nature as the pine needles and smooth stones around it.

By contrast TAC houses seem very much more "precise" and sophisticated, but also very human, particularly in their use of materials. I hope to give a fuller account of these later as they are of the greatest interest and represent a great contribution to the vocabulary of sensitive detailing in the Gropius tradition. Magazine illustrations have given some idea of this, but a great number of the houses have yet to be photographed—the busy camera of Ezra Stoller leaves a great deal of ground still uncovered.

Whichever school of ideas influences the houses of New England, they all share one common characteristic—they are of the automobile age. Without a car all of them would be impossible; with a car they provide a satisfying and pleasant way of living, ideal if you are bringing up children, which combines the restorative calm of the country with the nervous distraction of the town. And, as a diverting half-light between the two extremes think how summer evening parties can be enhanced in a "half-in, half-out" residence with inexpensive mirror spots to spotlight the garden fixed in rubber waterproof holders over your favourite flowering bush.

The challenge of designing a building at minimum cost with the maximum of stimulating ideas—to combine austerity with extravagance—was accepted gallantly and successfully by Walter Gropius and TAC in the great experiment of the Graduate Centre. Its significance for students in all faculties is very noticeable when one discusses the Centre around Harvard Yard. Meticulous detailing of the dormitories for low building cost (all pipes are exposed and even the walls unplastered) in order to be able to allocate money to landscaping, murals and sculpture has worked this trick.

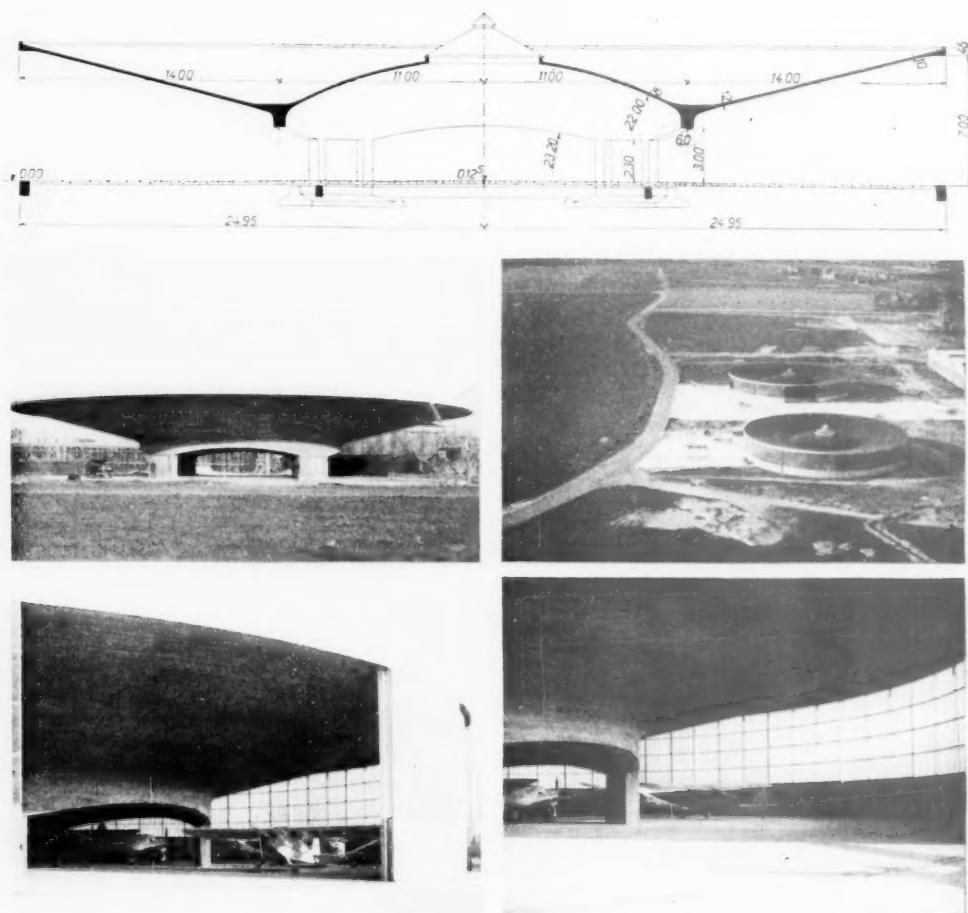
Taking in order the "extravagances" begin with the excavation of the flat barren site, originally tennis courts, to give a definition to a sunken quadrangle which focuses the scheme—an expensive idea reminiscent of the 6ft platform under the Dome of Discovery which gave significance to the Main Concourse. This new level called for a special 52,000-gallon retention basin to absorb storm water. Effective planting of new trees is responsible for a very pleasant first impression of restfulness, an effect surely worth the most strenuous effort, and perhaps the cost can be balanced by the economy of making no allowance for the hot summer sun in the form of air-conditioning or brise soleil, since the building is not used in the summer. As for the murals, it is not possible to imagine simple design springing more directly from the "desire to create."

An emotional effect achieved by the shadow between two planes is a remarkable performance, and one to which Herbert Bayer, Jean Arp and Professor Josef Albers have, with many similar experiments, devoted a great deal of their time in the past.

The fact remains that, by whatever ingenuity, it has all been done on a budget only 25% of Harvard's pre-war standard for such buildings, and the Centre looks in fine shape to meet its third year of students when term begins this year. The only adjustment made in the light of two years' active service has been the increase in the number of single rooms in the dormitories—a simple matter as the double rooms were designed to allow for just this very contingency.

At Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Carl Koch's latest project has just been completed—a bank. A building which expresses very boldly a strong emotional idea, this is certainly the most original bank I have ever heard of. It consists of a cylindrical envelope of continuous glass, one storey high, under a square concrete roof on corner posts. The space enclosed is brilliantly lit at night to discourage thieves and robbers, and also to illuminate the gaily decorated porcelain-enamel sheets which encase a central safe. Of 18in concrete, the latter contains all the money and every side is visible from the streets. Gay decorations are by Gyorgy Kepes in the form of an amusing all-over pattern—broken by one stainless steel door.

GEOFFREY HOLROYD



Grimbergen Hangars, Belgium. Constructors: A. Hardy.

This new type of hangar recently constructed in Belgium can take a total of six planes distributed over 2,000 square metres, while ensuring easy and rapid entrance and exit at any point.

These "mushroom" hangars are circular in form and constructed in reinforced concrete blocks 50 metres in exterior diameter and a maximum of 7 metres high. The hangar is closed by metal sliding doors. They are installed on two distinct bearings which gives maximum opening over half the perimeter in any direction. The lower part of the doors is in aluminium plating up to 2 metres height. The remaining 5 metres are glazed.

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Architects:—

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P. A.R.I.B.A.



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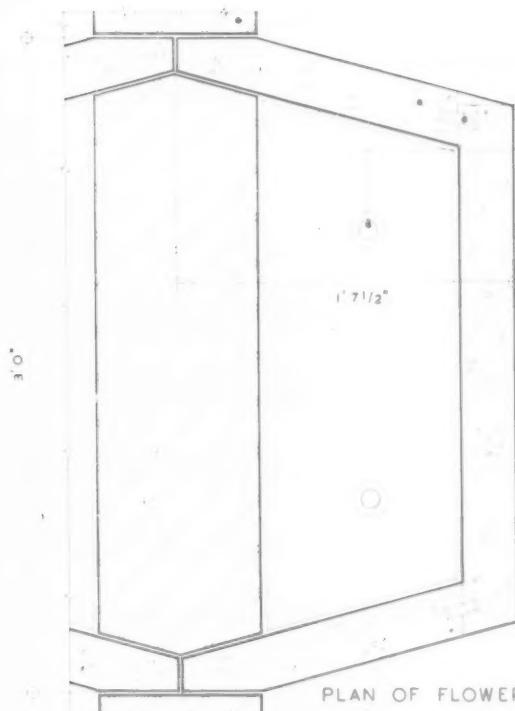
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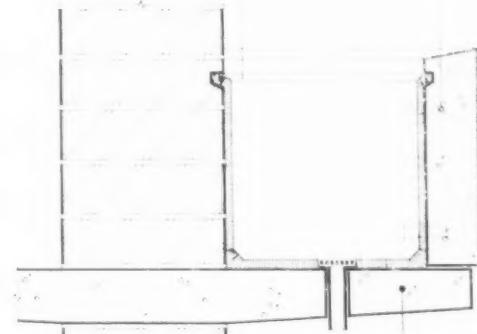
9" PARTY DWARF WALL

2" ARTIFICIAL STONE SLAB

COPPER DOWEL

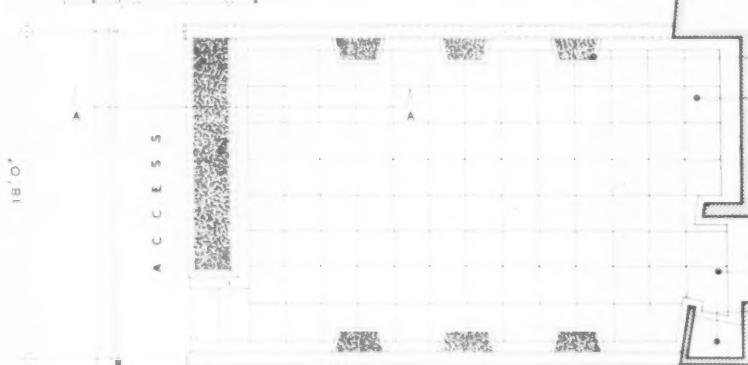
1" Ø COPPER WEEP PIPE GROUTED IN

CONTINUOUS GROOVE TO TAKE 3/4" ASPHALTE



SECTION

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' 0"



CANTILEVERED FLOWER BOXES

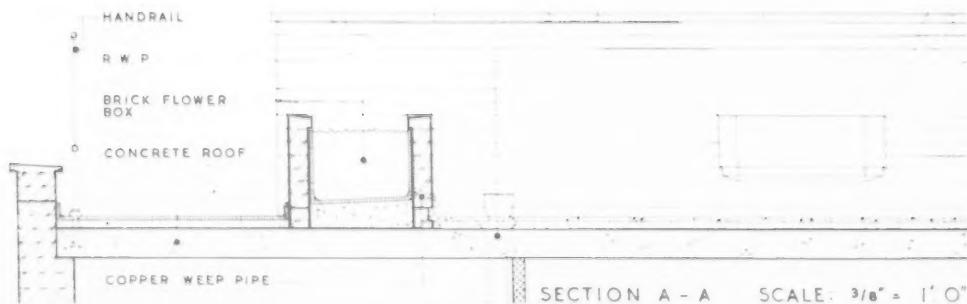
PATENT PAVING

PLAN OF TYPICAL
ROOF GARDEN

SCALE 1" = 8' 0"

PORCH

FUEL STORE

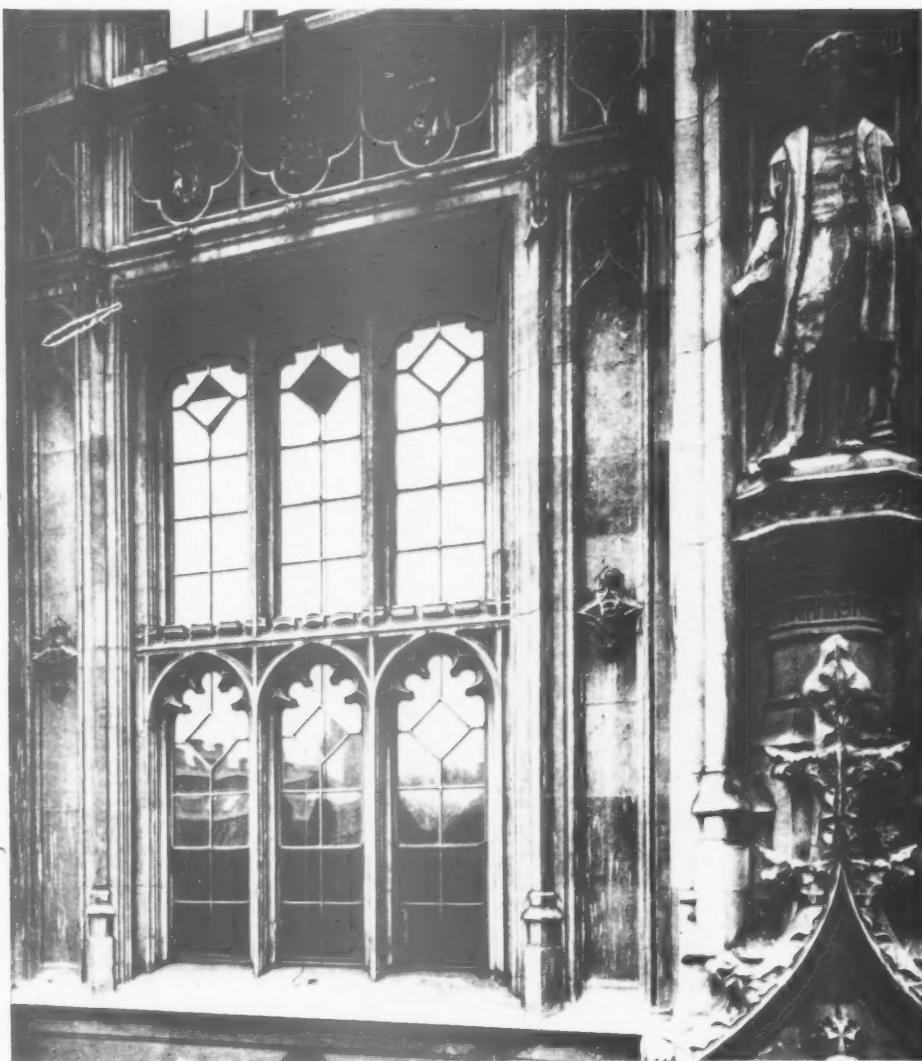


SECTION A-A SCALE: 3/8" = 1' 0"



MAISONETTE TERRACE GARDENS, LANSBURY, POPLAR
ARCHITECT: FREDERICK GIBBERD





'HOPE'S Bronze Windows were supplied to the Houses of Parliament when they were built in 1847 to Sir Charles Barry's design.'

PAGE 71
from the new Catalogue
recently published by HENRY HOPE & SONS LTD
SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM & 17 BERNERS ST., LONDON, W.1

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saves £100 per week

Cuts capital spending, too



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Mechanical Handling

BEING always interested in the use of mechanical aids I noticed some months ago that there was a major exhibition at Olympia devoted to the products of this growing mechanical handling industry and I therefore paid it a visit to see whether I should see some new developments which would contribute to increasing output and speeding up building at the site.

I found the exhibition most exhilarating, interesting and instructive; it was a grand collection of appliances, many of which I should enjoy playing with for hours. Nonetheless, from the building angle I am afraid I was very disappointed. There were only a very few machines exhibited which seemed to have applications to the normal building site and those shown all appeared to be ones already fairly well known in the building industry from demonstrations attended by many of us or from advertising literature which we have perused. From the aspect of the producers of materials for the building industry or for those involved in civil engineering contracting or very large-scale building there was a plentiful display of plant which was useful to them, such as grabs, screening plant and the like, especially plant suitable for those producing basic materials in sand pits, quarries and clay pits.

There were a number of points which struck me very forcibly in relation to mechanical plant to be used on building sites. I sometimes wonder if some of the plant designers have ever been on a normal building site in winter time, more especially those of the type which have a clay sub-soil, because if they have visited, or better, worked on such sites, it should be very obvious that many of the machines would be quite unhandable. For example, clearances under machines of 6in and even less are quite useless; as are also narrow-treaded wheels and small adjustable struts for supporting the machine; furthermore, it is difficult to achieve large areas of level surface on which to stand those types of machines which require constant movement from one place on a job to another. The amount of dirt, mud, dust, cement and similar matter, all of which affect seriously the smooth running of machines, are very different from the conditions that may be anticipated under factory and workshop conditions in many other industries; consequently very special design precautions seem to be needed if excessive maintenance troubles are to be avoided.

Shortly before visiting the exhibition I had a long discussion with a contractor on a housing scheme regarding a portable conveyor he was trying out. His opinion, after many weeks of using this conveyor under varying conditions, was that it was proving to be a costly piece of equipment and consequently he was proposing to sell it. He agreed

it would transfer enormous quantities of bricks from near the ground on to the scaffold every hour but it moved material so quickly that it needed to be moved about every five minutes unless there was a squad of labourers to transfer the bricks to where they were needed, and it took a long time and much manhandling to move it to a new position. He found that there was no saving in labour numbers, in fact rather the reverse, between using the men as hod carriers or as men servicing the conveyor; the reason was that the bricks needed so much manhandling at each end of the conveyor. He said he had found small petrol-driven barrow and platform hoists far more economic and much more adaptable to the various materials to be handled.

For site work in the early stages of most buildings, especially those on spread-out sites such as housing schemes, schools and hospitals, the petrol engine is preferable to electricity as it is so frequently inconvenient to install electric distribution all over the site early in jobs.

The crane is not yet a machine in wide demand in building, except in large single buildings, but there are signs of increasing use now that more suitable types are becoming available and should there be any development in the use of large pre-fabricated building units its use may become more widespread. Where cranes can be used the types of design approved under the Factory Regulations are well established and are usually of the derrick type, but again there are indications of changes on foot. The mobile types of cranes seem to be useful where site conditions are good and they only if they are designed for working on extremely uneven surfaces and are capable of bridging open trenches without damaging them in the process.

The field for mechanical plant for the less-spread-out types of building seems mostly to lie in directions other than handling of materials such as in concrete mixers, hand tools and the like. For site preparation, except in the fields more closely allied to public works, much of the mechanical plant is on the large side and therefore of limited value. The use of the mechanical barrow has developed to a small measure but is again more useful on the large project, mainly because it cannot be hoisted to a scaffold.

From discussions with builders it seems that the small power-driven hoist has been found to be a most used piece of mechanical handling plant. This seems to arise from the fact that once installed it serves the building throughout its construction period and can be used to service most trades which does not seem the case with the greater part of the other plant.

The main comment one hears about mechanical handling plant is that the capital cost of most of it is out of pro-

portion to the number of useful hours it can be worked during each day. Smaller builders, who carry out much of our building work, have told me frequently that they find they cannot afford the capital costs of mechanical handling equipment and they find the hire rates show no saving on manual labour that has to be employed to do the jobs which only hands, and not machines, can perform.

A very important factor about machinery is that it almost certainly necessitates much more careful organization of the work if it is to be used efficiently and it is to achieve economy. This opens up a subject which is greater than can be discussed in this article but one to which it is hoped to return on another occasion.

A more extensive use of mechanical hand tools or small portable tools certainly seems to be justified as the result of many discussions I have had with builders in which I have heard many views on the economies they achieve. Again, however, I believe many of these tools are often more suited to site workshops than right on the job; this appears to arise from difficulties and expense involved in having electricity available when and where the tools are to be used, and whether a sufficiently constant use can be made of any one tool during the working day.

DUTCH UNCLE

M.O.W. LECTURES OCTOBER

GLASGOW, October 1, at 7.15 p.m.
ESSENTIALS OF GOOD CONCRETING.—Speaker: E. H. Bain, Chief Works Engineer, M.O.W., at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, Small Hall, 39, Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow; and

EDINBURGH, October 2, at 7.15 p.m.
At the Gould Hall, 5, St. Andrews Square, Edinburgh.

WALSALL, October 7, at 7.30 p.m.
GOOD PRACTICE IN PLUMBING.—Speaker: F. N. Shimmin, Senior Sanitary Engineer, Ministry of Works, at the Technical College, Bradford Place, Walsall.

NEWPORT (Mon.), October 7, at 7 p.m.
SOIL MECHANICS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.—Speaker: I. K. Nixon, at the Boys' High School, Queens Hill, Newport.

MONTROSE, October 7, at 7.15 p.m.
THE BUILDING (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS, 1948.—Speaker: S. Jones, H.M. Inspector of Factories, at the Park Hotel, Montrose.

SUNDERLAND, October 8, at 7 p.m.
LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE.—Speaker: T. Whitaker, Building Research Station, at the Technical College, The Green, Sunderland.

CARDIFF, October 8, at 7 p.m.
HARDWOODS FOR BUILDING.—Speaker: B. J. Rendle, Forest Products Research Laboratory, at the Gas Board Lecture Theatre, John Street, Cardiff.

MERTHYR TYDFIL, October 9, at 7 p.m.
STRUCTURAL USE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE IN BUILDING.—Speaker: A. E. Hewitt, Senior Structural Engineer, Ministry of Works, at the Hope Church Vestry, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

OBAN, October 9, at 7.30 p.m.
THE BUILDING (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS, 1948.—Speaker: K. G. Tupling, H.M. Inspector of Factories, at the Royal Hotel, Oban.



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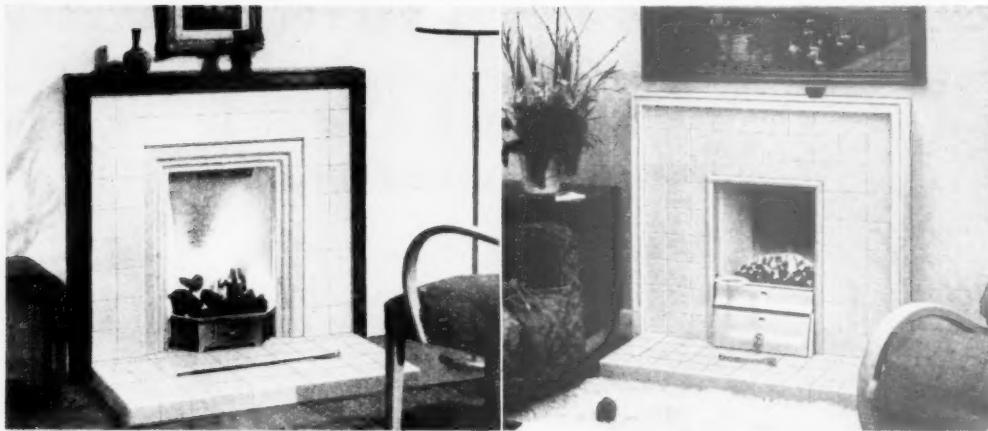
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BEDROOM 2: Furniture in teak, designed by Christopher Heal. Wallpaper grey with celadon green and lime yellow design; walls pale lime yellow; carpet grey-blue felt. **DINING ROOM:** Furniture in Mansonia and Abura, designed by A. J. Milne, M.S.I.A. Colour scheme; grey, white, yellow and green.

THE house illustrated has been built by W. H. Colt Son & Co. Ltd., of Betherden, Ashford, Kent, to the designs of A. L. Osborne, F.R.I.B.A., in conformity with the special wishes and requirements of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works. Since the scheme was started the Government has brought all such housing experiments under the heading M.L.G.P. (Ministry of Local Government and Planning). Messrs. Heal & Son have collaborated in the furnishing and interior decoration scheme for the house.

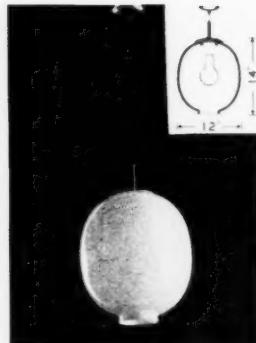
It is generally agreed by all parties that the need for economical housing is of paramount importance. Therefore all ways and means should be tried to utilize every channel to produce more houses. By careful detailing it has been possible to keep softwood content of Colt houses to the Ministry limit. As these houses are factory made it has been possible to make full use of uncontrolled timber and make up the deficiency of softwood with Malayan and West African hardwoods. These are very useful in constructional places and for joinery.

In this house are incorporated a number of experimental details suggested by the Building Research Station at Garston, and the "Fire boys." At the same time the plan is rather more extravagant than would be recommended under the present Government.

This house is factory made in jigs, and the system of prefabrication allows a very wide latitude in individual design so that architects have a comparatively free hand.



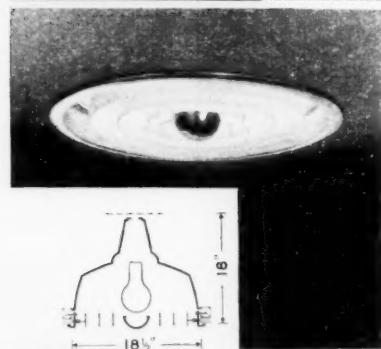
photos: Heal & Son Ltd.



SERVICES.
LIGHTING.
BI.49.

Continuing the series of lighting fittings illustrated last week and designed by Paul Boissevain here are four more of the range manufactured by the same firm. The chrome lantern shaped pendant in glass costs £4.3s including tax.

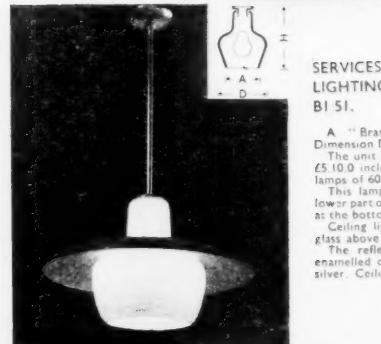
The pendant is of flex but tubular suspension and ceiling and wall bracket types are also available. The unit is in aluminium anodized satin silver and the glass is best quality British 3-ply white opal. The cut-off angle is 60 degrees.



SERVICES.
LIGHTING.
BI.50.

A recessed louvre unit with aluminium ring and cup anodized satin silver. The louvre is stove enamelled white. The glass is 3-ply white opal R.E.F. vitreous enamelled reflector.

This fitting has been designed for use in assembly halls which are also used as gyms. It takes 3,500 watt lamps and costs £11.79. Other sizes include 6in, 8in and 12in models for lamps from 60 to 300 watts.



SERVICES.
LIGHTING.
BI.51.

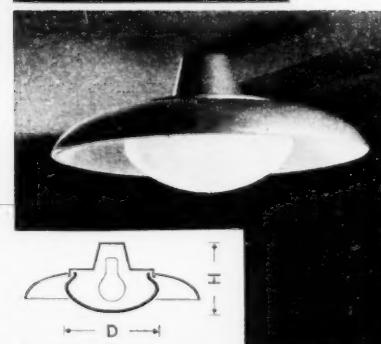
A "Brandy Glass" pendant with reflector. Dimension D equals 9in and H equals 16in.

The unit is designed for a 150-watt lamp and costs £5.10.0 including purchase tax. Other sizes are for lamps of 60 watts and 200 watts.

This lamp has a shallow glass globe lighting from the lower part of the 3-ply white opal globe. The aperture at the bottom gives a cut-off angle of 30 degrees.

Ceiling lighting is provided from the part of the glass above the reflector.

The reflector is of aluminium finished in stove enamelled colours. Other metal parts are anodized silver. Ceiling and wall bracket units are also available.



SERVICES.
LIGHTING.
BI.52.

This model with a metal reflector and shallow 3-ply white opal globe is also available as a pendant fitting with Perspex reflector instead of the aluminium type. Dimensions: D—12in, R—22in, H—9in.

This unit is designed for 150, 200-watt lamp and costs £5.19.1. Other sizes up to 32in diameter are made for 300-watt and 500-watt lamps.

MOSAICS

The names and addresses of manufacturers of any item illustrated in MOSAICS, together with more detailed information relating to their products—including price and availability—will be forwarded to readers on request.

Letters should quote the serial number and be addressed to:

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The Architect and Building News,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, S.E.1.

Please mark the envelope MOSAICS.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

The Ministry of Materials announces that Mr. Philip G. Smith, of Bassett, Smith & Co., Ltd., will be appointed Government Broker from October 1, 1952, for all sales of lead on the London Metal Exchange from Ministry stocks.

The Iron and Steel Duties (Exemption) Order, 1952, which came into force on September 19, 1952, suspends the import duties on certain iron and steel goods for a period of one year.

In the main, these goods are purchased centrally by the British Iron and Steel Corporation, Limited, under an agreement with the Ministry of Supply. The result of the present Order will be that for a period of a year from September 19, 1952, all imports of these goods, whether made centrally or privately, will be free of import duties, and the administrative arrangements will be simplified. The Order has no net effect on the position of the centrally purchased imports (i.e., on the position of the main part of total imports); under the arrangements prior to the Order, Customs duty on these centrally purchased imports was refunded by the Ministry of Supply.

The Order makes no change in the import licensing position.

Copies of the Order (S.I., 1952, No. 1670) can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, or any bookseller, price 2d.

The Ministry of Materials announces that as from September 13, 1952, the price of good ordinary brand zinc is increased from £122 to £126 per ton delivered consumers' works. Premiums for higher grades remain unchanged.

Building Industry Distributors, in discussion with the Ministry of Works, have prepared a Mutual Aid Scheme to help the housing drive. Under the scheme, contractors finding that the lack of certain commodities and fitments is holding up completion of essential work, can approach the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Works, who will notify the local panels of B.I.D. members. The latter will pool their resources in an endeavour to supply the article or articles in short supply.

The scheme is not intended to cover any general shortages, which builders and plumbers must deal with through trade channels as hitherto, but rather to deal with the shortage of an article which will delay occupation of an otherwise completed building.

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

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GRIMSBY B.C. (a) Foundations, basements, superstructure, drainage, paths, etc., for new school at Chelmsford Avenue. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square. (c) £5. (e) Oct. 14.

GUILDFORD B.C. (a) 13 blocks of "Duplex" houses, Bushy Hill. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Municipal Offices, High Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 7.

HALESOWEN B.C. (a) 13 aged persons' dwellings, High Town, Cradley. (b) J. C. T. Cole, Central Buildings, Long Lane, Blackheath, nr. Birmingham. (d) Sept. 30.

HALESOWEN B.C. (a) 68 houses, Hatsby Farm Estate Extension, Halesowen. (b) Messrs. A. T. Butler and Partners, 31, Priory Street, Dudley; immediately (c) 2gns.

HEMWSORTH R.C. (a) 50 houses at Ryhill. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Brierley Hall, Brierley, nr. Barnsley. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 15.

HUNTINGDON C.C. (a) 1 pair of police houses at Yaxley. (b) County Architect, County Buildings, Huntingdon. (e) Oct. 10.

KEYNSHAM U.C. (a) 6 aged persons' dwellings, Cranmore Avenue, Keynsham. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns. cheque payable to U.D.C. (e) Oct. 6.

LINCOLN C.C. (PARTS OF KESTEVEN). (a) Additional accommodation at Grantham Earlsfield County School. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Sleaford. (d) Sept. 30. (e) Oct. 21.

LINCOLN C.C. (PARTS OF KESTEVEN). (a) Adaptations to form children's home at Brant Broughton House, nr. Lincoln. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Sleaford. (d) Oct. 2. (e) Oct. 16.

LONDON—CAMBERWELL B.C. (a) 3-storey block of 9 flats, Site No. 56, Reedham Street. (b) Town Clerk, Town Hall, Peckham Road, S.E.5. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 21. See page 32.

LOTHINGLAND R.C. (a) 1) 6 dwellings at Hall Lane, Blundeston; 2) 8 off Rounce's Lane, Carlton Colville; 3) 4 at Colman Road, Corton; 4) 4 at Sandy Lane, Hulver Street; 5) 4 at Bonsey Gardens, Wrentham; 6) 4 at Highfield Estate, Kessingland; and 7) 4 at Elliott Avenue, Reydon. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, Rectory Road, Lowestoft. (c) 2gns. (d) Oct. 2. (e) Oct. 25, for all or any of the sites.

LUDLOW R.C. (a) Public conveniences at Eagle Lane, Cleobury Mortimer. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Stone House, Corve Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 3.

MANCHESTER C.C. (a) 44 police houses in 2 groups. (b) Director of Housing, Town Hall, 2. (c) 2gns. payable to Corporation. (e) Oct. 11.

MERTHYR TYDFIL B.C. (a) Public conveniences at Dowlais. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 3gns. (e) Oct. 23.

N. IRELAND—BELFAST C.C. (a) 47 houses and 12 flats at Disraeli Street, Crumlin Road. (b) Housing Architect's Department, 94, Chichester Street. (c) £5. (e) Oct. 8.

N. IRELAND—DOWN C.E.C. (a) Central meals kitchen at Waringstown. (b) Committee Offices, 1, Wellington Place, Belfast. (c) £3. (e) Oct. 9.

N. IRELAND—GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND. (a) R.U.C. barrack at Aughnacloy Road, Caledon, Co. Tyrone. (b) Ministry of Finance (Room 103), Law Courts Building, May Street, Belfast. (c) £3. (e) Oct. 14.

N. IRELAND—NORTHERN IRELAND TUBERCULOSIS AUTHORITY. (a) Building alterations at 27, Adelaide Street, Belfast. (b) D. W. Boyd, 43, Scottish Provident Buildings, Wellington Place, Belfast (on production of receipt for deposit of 5gns. paid to Secretary, 27, Adelaide Street, Belfast). (e) Oct. 18.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE C.C. (a) Fire station at Long Buckby. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Northampton. (d) Sept. 30.

NOTTINGHAM C.C. (a) General repairs, alteration and painting at the Dawson Nursery, Pearson Street, Basford. (b) City Engineer, Guildhall. (c) £2. (e) Oct. 10.

NOTTINGHAM C.C. (a) Second phase of junior school at Greencroft, Clifton, nr. Nottingham. (b) City Engineer, Guildhall. (c) £2. (e) Oct. 7.

PRESTWICH B.C. (a) Block of 18 flats at Bury Old Road and Milton Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 10gns. (e) Oct. 15.

RAYLEIGH U.C. (a) 15 pairs and 1 terrace of 4 houses, Lansdowne Drive and Station Avenue. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, 28, High Street. (c) 3gns. (d) Sept. 27. (e) Oct. 20.

RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE R.C. (a) 2 pairs of bungalows, 3 pairs of cottages and 2 blocks of 3 cottages at Jubilee Road, Fordingbridge. (b) Frank Andrews, 45, High Street, Ringwood. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 6.

SANDBACH U.C. (a) 46 houses, Site No. 5, off Crewe Road. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Crewe Road. (c) 1gn. (e) Oct. 7.

SEDGELEY U.C. (a) Public convenience at Dudding Road. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, The Limes, Dudley Road. (c) 2gns. (d) Sept. 27.

SKEGNESS U.C. (a) 16 aged persons' bungalows, Burgh Road. (b) Council's Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 3gns. (e) Oct. 6.

SOUTH SHIELDS B.C. (a) (1) 4 shops, 4 flats and 7 garages at Lake Avenue, and (2) 68 houses on the Simonside Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 7.

WELWYN R.C. (a) 20 houses, Hawbush Common Estate. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices, By-Pass Road. (c) 3gns. (e) Oct. 17.



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BUILDING

WOLVERHAMPTON. (1) Large extensions for Laystall Engineering Co., Ltd. (2) Addersley. (3) H. Willcock and Co., Ltd., Darlington Street, Wolverhampton. (4) About £135,000.

CROYDON. (1) Bus depot for L.P.T. Executive. (3) J. Jarvis and Sons, Ltd., 12, Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1. (4) £200,000.

SOUTHAMPTON B.C. (1) 120 flats. (2) Itchen No. 1 site. (3) Frank Bilton, Ltd., 33, Streatham Place, London, S.W.2. (4) £227,633.

CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL. (1) Technical College. (2) Llandaff. (3) McLaughlin and Harvey, Ltd., Llandaff North, Whitchurch, and London, N. (4) About £200,000.

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL. (1) Reinforced concrete framework for blocks of flats. (2) Warwick Way. (3) Rush and Tompkins, Ltd., Station Road, Sidcup. (4) £124,000.

STEVENAGE, HERTS. (1) Large factory for De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd. (3) Gilbert-Ash, Ltd., 2, Stanhope Gate, London, W.1. (4) About £200,000. Work begins forthwith.

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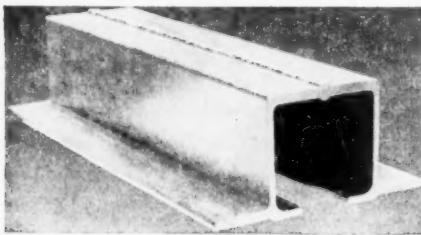
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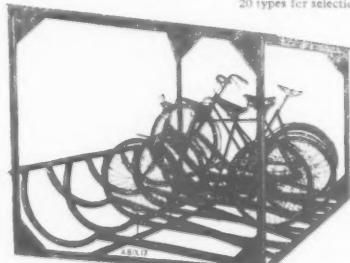
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DRAUGHTSMAN TRACER required in the Inspector and Surveyor's Department of the TENDRING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Applicants (male or female) should have had a good general office training and should be capable of making neat and accurate drawings and tracings. Commencing salary in accordance with age group of the General Division of the Ministry of Labour and National Scheme of Conditions of Service (Maximum for males, £424 per annum at age 30; females, £340 per annum at age 30). The appointment is determinable by one month's written notice on either side.

Applications, stating age, experience, present and past appointments, and accompanied by copies of two references, should be addressed so as to reach W. S. Laing, A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor, Tendring Rural District Council, Council Offices, Wrea, Clacton-on-Sea, not later than Wednesday, the 8th October, 1952 (or Apply Clacton Labour Exchange). [667/9]

NEW TOWN OF CWMBRAN (MONMOUTHSHIRE).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the department of the Chief Architect, J. C. P. West, A.R.I.B.A., etc.:

- (a) 2 JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS at a salary in accordance with the scale £430-£462.
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Applicants for appointment (a) should be graduate Architects and have completed a satisfactory period of professional training.

For appointment (b) the applicants should have had experience in a Builder's or Quantity Surveyor's Office. This post is an excellent opportunity for one who is prepared to study for professional qualifications.

The appointments are superannuable and the successful applicants will be required to furnish a medical certificate of fitness.

Applications stating age, experience, qualifications, names of present and former employer (together with applicable salaries) and the names and addresses of two referees must reach the undersigned by Friday, 10th October, 1952.

Envelopes should be endorsed either "Junior Architect" or "Clerical Assistant".

W. REES,
General Manager.

Victoria Street,
Cwmbran, Mon.
15th September, 1952. [668/4]

LONDON ELECTRICITY BOARD.

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APPLICATIONS are invited for the above position in the Design & Planning Branch at Aldersgate Street, E.C.1.

Applicants should have had training and experience in building construction and the design of steelwork and reinforced concrete structures, and be capable of preparing drawings and making calculations for the alteration of existing premises and the conversion of basements into sub-basements and transformer chambers. Experience in the layout of electrical equipment up to 11kV whilst not essential, would be an advantage.

The post is under Schedule "D" of the National Joint Board agreement as Senior Draughtsman, Grade 5, £574 7s to £683 11s per annum, inclusive of London Allowance.

Application forms obtainable from Establishments Officer, 46, New Broad St., E.C.2, to be returned completed within 10 days of the publication of this advertisement. Please enclose addressed envelope and quota ref. V 1468 AA on all correspondence.

HAMPSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL require an ASSISTANT ARCHITECT (TEMPORARY). Salary £570-£620 (A.P.T.V.) plus London weighting. Qualified. Age limit 45. No housing provided. Applications giving three referees, to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Hampstead, N.W.3. Closing date 4th October, 1952. [668/8]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• CONTRACTS • TENDERS

Close for press 1st post Monday for following Thursday Issue

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS. BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointment on the permanent establishment in accordance with the National Conditions of Service, Scale 1, Grade 1, £520-£540.

The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice on either side and will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Candidates must, when making application, disclose in writing whether to their knowledge they are related to any member of the Council, or to a holder of any Senior Office under the Council. Applications, stating age, qualifications, present and past appointments and details of experience, accompanied by copies of three testimonials, must be forwarded to the undersigned not later than MONDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 1952.

Cannassing in any form will be deemed a disqualification.

M. WARD, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.L.,
Town Hall,
St. Helens,
15th September, 1952. [669/0]

CONTRACTS

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

FEATHERBY JUNIOR SCHOOL, CHILHAM ROAD.

Proposed Starting Date: November, 1952.

TENDERS are invited for the erection of a TRADITIONAL BRICK-BUILT JUNIOR SCHOOL on the Featherby/Eastcourt Estate, Gillingham, Kent.

Persons desirous of tendering may obtain copies of the Bills of Quantities, Specification and Form of Tender and may inspect the drawings and Conditions of Contract at the Borough Engineer's Department, during normal office hours.

Applications should be accompanied by a cheque for five guineas (£5 5s 0d), made payable to the Gillingham Corporation. This sum will be refunded on the receipt of a bona fide tender not subsequently withdrawn and on the return of all the documents issued.

The above-mentioned documents will be available on the 1st October, 1952.

Tenders in plain sealed envelopes endorsed "Tender for Featherby Junior School" must be delivered to the undersigned by not later than the first post on the 31st October, 1952.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

FRANK HILL,
Town Clerk.
4th September, 1952.
Municipal Buildings,
GILLINGHAM,
Kent. [666/4]

FARNHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Forms of Tender, Bills of Quantities, Conditions of Contract and Specification, may be obtained from and Drawings inspected at the office of the Council's Architects, Messrs. Gilbert and Hobson, L. A.R.I.B.A., 75, Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey, upon payment of a deposit of £2 which will be returned upon receipt of a bona fide Tender (not subsequently withdrawn) or on return of the documents.

Tenders must be delivered to the undersigned in a plain, sealed envelope, endorsed "Tender for Housing, Old Park Close," not later than 12 noon on Wednesday the 22nd October, 1952.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

A. A. MINNS,
Clerk of the Council.
Council Offices,
South Street,
Farnham, Surrey. [669/1]

CONTRACTS—contd.

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TENDER DOCUMENTS will be despatched on TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1952, and TENDERS and BILLS OF QUANTITIES under separate cover must be delivered to the Town Clerk by 12 NOON on TUESDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 1952.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

September, 1952. [666/2]

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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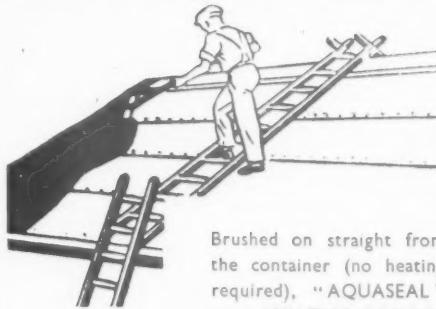
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Reinforcement *for* **Brickwork** in 270' and 75' coils

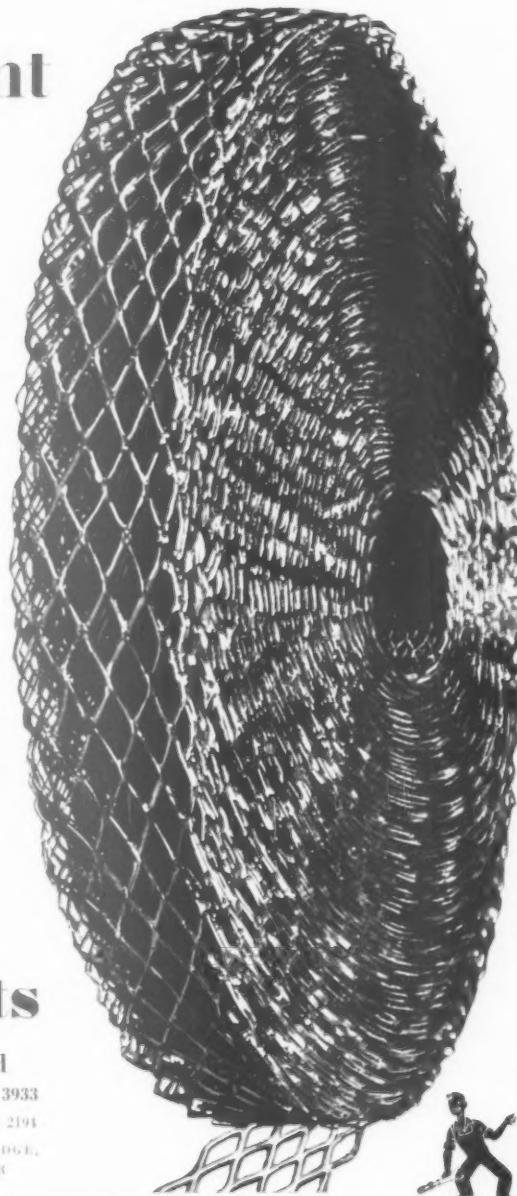
'Exmet' is embedded in the normal thickness of a brickwork joint and because of the mechanical bond of the diamond-shaped meshes it develops its ultimate strength without slipping.

To reinforce a wall against the effects of settlement, or to stiffen a thin panel wall, a continuous strip of 'Exmet' should be embedded in every horizontal course or, where the bearing capacity of the foundations or the size of the panel will allow it, in every alternate course.

'Exmet' is made in 2½, 4, 4½, 6, 7 and 12 inch widths. The width should be chosen so that the material is embedded not less than 1 inch from each wall face. For walls thicker than 14 inches, two widths are combined.

Expanded Metal Products

The Expanded Metal Company Limited
Burwood House, Caxton Street, S.W.1. Abbey 3933
STRANTON WORKS, WEST HARTLEPOOL. HARTLEPOOLS 2194
ALSO AT: ABERDEEN, BELFAST, BIRMINGHAM, CAMBRIDGE,
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